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ABSTRACT

This is a two-way contrastive analysis of the use of the article in English and Hungarian. The study works in both theoretical and applied contrastive linguistics by stating the rules governing determination and developing a methodology for analysis, and by noting language acquisition difficulties to reduce language learning interference. Part One deals with means for expressing determination in English and Hungarian noun phrases, contrasted from the standpoint of article use. The main differences concerning the relation of demonstratives and possessive determiners to articles are discussed. In noun classification, the system of English countable and uncountable nouns is contrasted with Hungarian. The distinction between English quantifiers "much" and "little" and numericals "many" and "few" is analyzed. Individual and non-individual features of Hungarian countable common nouns are observed. Part Two gives a contrastive analysis of English and Hungarian articles showing usage rules and examples. Predictions of errors are made for learners of each language. Difficult cases are presented, as English "there is/are" and uses of "most." Use of "some" is contrasted with the Hungarian zero article. Articles are analyzed with nominal objects and predicates, and the role of word order in Hungarian article usage is examined. (CHK)

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THE HUNGARIAN-ENGLISH
CONTRASTIVE LINGUISTICS PROJECT
WORKING PAPERS

5

ÉVA STEPHANIDES

A Contrastive Study of the English and Hungarian Article

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THE HUNGARIAN-ENGLISH CONTRASTIVE LINGUISTICS PROJECT

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The major research objective of the Project is the systematic large-scale investigation of differences and similarities between the Hungarian and English languages with implications for the acquisition of English by Hungarians and the acquisition of Hungarian by speakers of English.

The Project publication, Working Papers, makes available research results, theoretical studies, progress reports, sample pedagogical materials and other materials relevant to Project objectives.

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Symbols and notations

1. *Used in the text*

*	– Asterisk, indicating non-grammatical structures
BL	– Base (source) language
DO	– Direct object
EA	– Error analysis
EH	– English Hungarian
ELH	– English learner(s) of Hungarian
HE	– Hungarian English
HLE	– Hungarian learner(s) of English
IO	– Indirect object
N	– Noun
NP(s)	– Noun phrase(s)
TL	– Target language

2. *Used in the formulae*

/	– Or
//	– Optional use
/ _	– In the following environment
Art	– Article
Dem	– Demonstrative
Det	– Determiner
M	– Modifier (excluding determiners)
N	– Noun
NP	– Noun phrase

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3. *Used in the formulae to mark semantic features of nouns, determiners, and noun phrases.*

± Act	– Actualized / Non-actualized
± Anaph	– Anaphoric / Situational
± Animate	– Animate / Inanimate
± Concr	– Concrete (material) / Abstract
± Count	– Countable / Uncountable
± Def	– Definite / Indefinite
+ Deic	– Deictic
+ Dual	– Dual
+ Emph	– Emphatic
± Specific	– Specified / Non-specified (generic)
± Human	– Human / Non-human
± Indiv	– Individual / Non-individual
± Plural	– Singular / Plural
+ Poss	– Possessive
± Quant	– Quantified / Non-quantified
± Restr	– Restrictive / Non-restrictive
+ Temp	– Temporal
± Total	– Total / Partial
± Y	– Identified / Unidentified

Introduction

0.1 *Research Plan.*

Objectives. This study is a contrastive analysis of the use of articles in English and Hungarian, primarily considering the question of how determination is expressed in the two languages. The ultimate goal is to identify similarities and differences in the use of determiners – especially the articles – with the practical objective of decreasing interference of the mother tongue while increasing its facilitation for both Hungarian learners of English (HLE) and English learners of Hungarian (ELH) during the difficult process of acquiring control of article structures. It is hoped that the results will be valuable in preparing teaching materials and textbooks.

The selection of this topic was suggested by personal experience. As a secondary school teacher of English, the author found that for HLE English articles are a major problem, and can be satisfactorily approached only by taking into account differences and similarities in article usage in the two languages.

Descriptive Approach. The approach in the study is basically taxonomic. However, formulations characteristic of generative transformationalism are utilized where they seem to provide special insights. The eclectic approach reflects the complex nature of the subject matter and the variety of descriptive viewpoints in the extensive literature on the article in Hungarian and especially in English,[1] as well as the practical objectives of the study.

Organization. The study consists of two parts. Part One presents the theoretical framework for the research. The units viewed as determiners are identified and described, with special attention to articles. The definition of determiners is followed by the classification of nouns to provide contexts for the description of article distribution. The relation of determiners to nouns in noun phrases is presented. Modifying structures – other than determiners – are analyzed giving an enumeration and a short description of the units which can modify a noun phrase.

Part Two presents the contrastive analysis of article usage. Patterns for article usage are established through their relation to different types of nouns

1 É. Stephanides (1973) gives a survey of the literature dealing with articles.

functioning in different syntactic positions. These include: (1) the use of the articles with nouns in noun phrases functioning as subjects, (2) changes in the occurrence of articles when the subject noun is modified, and (3) nouns or modified nouns fulfilling functions other than that of subject (object and predicate). Special consideration is given to changes in article usage in sentence sequences. Analysis of English structures precedes that of the Hungarian, except where the material requires presentation in reverse order. Descriptive statements are followed by both English and Hungarian examples; differences and similarities between the two languages are identified. These differences are used to formulate predictions on learning difficulty and interference types for both HLE and ELH, and data bearing on the validation of the predictions are presented. Because the study was undertaken in Hungary the author[1] had greater opportunity to observe HLE than ELH. Therefore the predictions are more detailed for ELH than for HLE, and validation is offered only for predictions of interference in the English of HLE.

0.2 *Corpus of English and Hungarian data*

Since no special corpus for contrastive study between English and Hungarian existed, it was necessary to compile one, from material available in Hungary.[1] Because transcriptions of spoken English were not available in sufficient quantity and quality, written texts were employed – mainly material written in English and translated into Hungarian by native speakers of Hungarian, plus a few works translated into English. About 2,000 pairs of examples represent a variety of texts as well as a wide range of contextual situations. They can be divided into two groups: (1) dialogues from dramas and works of fiction, interviews, and speeches – as being nearest to spoken language; and (2) informative and imaginative prose – press news, official documents, works of science, politics, and the arts – plus texts from short stories, novels, and other works of fiction. In order not to stress the stylistic features of particular authors, no more than 10% of the examples were collected from a single work.[2]

1 The corpus for the English-Hungarian contrastive linguistic research was selected in co-operation with László András, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest.

2 Sources used for collecting examples of errors to validate the predictions are described in Part Two.

PART ONE

Chapter I

1.0 *Theoretical scope and framework.*

1.1 *Determination and determiners.*

Every language has certain categories to make the expression of ideas and thoughts both precise and understandable. In the communication process, ideas and thoughts have to be delineated by the speaker (or writer) to make them clear for the hearer (or reader). One of the means for achieving clarity is determination. The process of determination may vary in different languages. Our aim first is to define those elements in English and Hungarian which help make determination possible. In both languages there is a small closed set of grammatical words that, while unrelated formally, are related by function. The common role they perform is referred to as *determination;* these function words are termed *determinatives* or *determiners.*

Determiners are modifiers of nouns; they modify the scope of the set designated by the noun that follows. As modifiers preceding the noun head, determiners are included within the class of adjectives.[1] As Bloomfield states (1933: 202–3):

> The adjectives are divided into two classes, *descriptive* and *limiting,* by the circumstance that when adjectives of both these classes occur in a phrase, the limiting adjective precedes and modifies the group of descriptive adjective plus noun ... . The form-class of limiting adjectives is much smaller than that of descriptive adjectives ... . Our limiting adjectives fall into two subclasses of *determiners* and *numeratives.*

More specifically, then, determiners are a subclass of limiting adjectives. The other class of limiting adjectives – numeratives – are also considered in our study. Bloomfield does not break down this latter category, but for our analysis we have applied the classification: *numerals, quantifiers,* and *ordinals.*

1 However, according to H. E. Palmer (1939: 48): The words under the heading Determinatives cannot be placed under the heading Adjectives, because:
(a) they cannot be used both epithetically and predicately;
(b) they are rarely or never susceptible of comparison;
(c) they are rarely or never susceptible of modification by other words.

Determiners in both English and Hungarian can be classified in several ways: (1) as definite or indefinite – in reference to various features: individualization, identification, selection, etc.; and (2) as pre-, central, and postdeterminers – in reference to distribution within the noun phrase.

Being the most frequently used member of central determiners in both English and Hungarian the article will be analyzed in detail in the course of this study. Structurally there are four articles in English and three in Hungarian (both with allomorphic variants): the definite and indefinite articles plus the zero article without an overt form, which is symbolized as ϕ.

Table I. List of English and Hungarian determiners.

English	Hungarian
ϕ	ϕ
a/an	egy
the	a/az
some /sm/	–
$some_1$, any_1	néhány, némi, valamelyes, valamennyi
$some_2$ (aff.), any_2 (inter.)	valamilyen, valamiféle
any_2 (aff.)	akármilyen, bármilyen, bármiféle
not any/no	semmi ... sem, nem + V, nincs ... sem,
this/that, these/those	ez/az (a), ezek/azok (a)
my, your, his, her, ...	poss. suffixes: (én)...-m, (te)...-d, (ő)...-é, ...
every, each	mindegyik, mindenegyes
either	(az) egyik, bármelyik
neither	egyik sem, semelyik
both	mindkét, mindkettő
whole, all/ _N[–Count]	egész, teljes
all /_N[+Count]	(az) összes, mind(en), valamennyi
half	fél
(the) very	éppen ez/az (a)
(the) same	ugyanez/-az (a), azonos
(a) certain	(egy) bizonyos
such (a)	ilyen/olyan (egy)
(an)other	(egy) más/ másik; (a) többi
(the) only	egyetlen
many/ much	sok
few/little	kevés
a few/ little	néhány/ egy kevés
2, 3, 4, 5, ...	2, 3, 4, 5, ...
first, second, third, ...	első, második, harmadik, ...

Table I lists the English and Hungarian determiners; Tables II and III classify them by distribution – as pre-, central, or postdeterminers – followed by a brief discussion of regularities these juxtapositions disclose. Table IV classifies the English and Hungarian articles in relation to other determiners.

Table II. Distribution of English determiners.

Determiners		
Pre-	Central	Post-
Group II	*Group I/A*	*Group II*
both*	the	whole
all*	a/an	certain
half	this/that	other
such	these/those	few**
many	my, your, his, ...	little**
		many
		much
		several
		first, second, ...
Group III	*Group I/B*	*Group III*
quite	some/any	same
	no	very
	every/each	only
	(n)either	

*can occur after the noun it modifies.

**_a few, a little_ can be considered as the combination of the indefinite article plus the quantifier only from a formal point of view, since the indefinite article proper cannot occur with either plural countable or uncountable nouns.

In Table II and III the Group I determiners exclude each other in a noun phrase. In reference to distribution these determiners are central determiners.

Group II determiners can modify a noun alone, but they can combine with articles and/or other determiners of Group I/A (in Hungarian also with Group II/A), and some of them with each other. In reference to distribution, determiners of Group II are pre- or postdeterminers.

Group III determiners must be accompanied by an article or another

determiner from Group I/A. The elements of these combinations form a permanent set. In reference to distribution they are pre- or postdeterminers.

Table III. Distribution of Hungarian determiners.

Determiners		
Pre-	Central	Post-
Group II mindkét	*Group I/A* a/az egy	*Group II/A* ...-m, -d, -é, ...
Group III az/ez azok/ezek éppen ez/az ugyanez/-az (and their plural forms)	*Group I/B* némi valamelyes valamilyen/-féle bármilyen/-féle akármilyen/-féle semmi mindegyik/mindenegyes akár-/bármelyik mind(en)/valamennyi egyik ... sem	*Group II/B* néhány egész/teljes összes fél ilyen/olyan ugyanilyen/-olyan azonos bizonyos másik/más egyetlen sok kevés első, második, ...
		Group III egyik többi

Looking at the examples below, it can be discovered that the use of the determiners seems to be governed by certain regularities. However regularities in the distribution of determiners in English are partially different, partially identical with the comparable Hungarian determiners.

Group A. English nouns can occur without determiners (in our terminology, with the zero article). In examples a–c, equivalent Hungarian nouns also occur with the zero article, while in examples d–f, they occur with a determiner other than the zero article:

(a) ϕ Napoleon was a great leader.
ϕ Napoleon nagy hadvezér volt.

(b) ϕ England is separated from ϕ France by the English Channel.
ϕ Angliát ϕ Franciaországtól a la Manche Csatorna választja el.

(c) ϕ Children were playing in the garden.
ϕ Gyermekek játszottak a kertben.

(d) She works in ϕ Oxford Street.
Az Oxford Streeten dolgozik.

(e) ϕ Pornography rarely possesses literary quality.
A pornográfia ritkán tartalmaz irodalmi értéket.

(f) ϕ Water boils at 100 degrees centigrade.
A víz 100 fokon forr. (C^O)

Group B. All nouns in English can occur with only one determiner; while in Hungarian the equivalent noun in the negative sentence – example e – occurs with no determiner, and in the case of the possessive phrase – example f – with two determiners.

(a) *A* dog is barking in the garden.
Egy kutya ugat a kertben.

(b) *The* cattle raised in Hungary are famous.
A Magyarországon tenyésztett szarvasmarha híres.

(c) *All* boys are football fans.
Minden/Valamennyi fiú futball szurkoló.

(d) They saw *some*$_{1,2}$ strange animals in the Zoo.
ϕ Furcsa állatokat láttak az állatkertben. (some$_1$)
Néhány furcsa állatot láttak az állatkertben. (some$_2$)

(e) There is *no* milk at home.
Nincs ϕ tej itthon.
Nincs *semmi* tej itthon.

(f) *My* coat was taken to the dry-cleaner.
A kabátomat elvitték a tisztítóba.

Group C. English nouns can occur with pairs of determiners, in which case their relative distribution is strictly prescribed. In equivalent Hungarian sentences – examples a, c, f, g – the distribution as well as the occurrence of the determiners is different.

(a) *Such a* room is not good for working.
(Egy) ilyen szoba nem alkalmas dolgozószobának.

(b) *Both the* boys ran to help the girl.
Mind a két fiú szaladt, hogy segítsen a lánynak.

(c) *All the* children were silent.
Minden/Valamennyi gyermek csöndben volt.
A gyermekek *mind* csöndben voltak.

(d) It was *quite a* long debate.
ϕ Igen hosszú vita volt.
Ez hosszú *egy* vita volt.

(e) *A certain* Mr. Smith was looking for you.
Egy bizonyos Kovács úr kereste Önt.

(f) Don't waste *the little* water we have left.
Ne pazarold el *azt a kevés* vízet, ami megmaradt.

(g) They lost *a few* cows.
Néhány tehenet vesztettek.

(h) They lost *the few* cows they had.
A kevés tehenük *mind* odaveszett.

Noting the striking surface characteristics, a few related problems must be pointed out:

(1) A single determiner may have more than one specific meaning or function (*a/an, the, some, any // egy, a/az,* ϕ, etc.).

(2) Different determiners may have very similar meanings and functions (*a/some, not any/no, every/each // minden/valamennyi, egyik sem / semelyik, mindegyik/mindenegyes,* etc.).

(3) In both languages the absence of any overt determinative word (ϕ) has a very definite structural meaning.

(4) The classification of these function words as determiners (Table I) cuts across their traditional division as parts of speech.

1.11 *Relationship of articles to other determiners.*

Articles are considered central in the categorization of determiners, therefore the distribution of the other determiners in both English and Hungarian will be defined according to their position relative to the articles; i.e., whether or not they can co-occur with articles.

Table IV.[1] *Relationship of articles to other determiners in English and Hungarian (+ indicates occurrence, – indicates non-occurrence).*

	ϕ	a/an	the	ϕ	egy	a/az	
demonstrative	+	–	–	–	–	+	demonstrative
possessive	+	–	–	+	+	+	possessive suffix
$some_1$, any_1	+	–	–	+	–	–	némi, valamelyes
				+	+	+	néhány
$some_2$, any_2	+	–	–	+	–	–	valamilyen, bármilyen, akármilyen, valamiféle, bármiféle
not any, no	+	–	–	+	+	+	nem/nincs ... sem
				+	–	–	semmi ... sem
every, each	+	–	–	+	–	–	mindegyik, mindenegyes
neither	+	–	–	+	–	–	semelyik, egyik ... sem
either	+	–	–	+	–	+	egyik, (másik)
both	+	–	+	+	–	+	mindkettő, mindkét
whole, all_1	+	+	+	+	+	+	egész, teljes
all_2		–	+	+	–	–	mind, minden, valamennyi
				+	–	+	összes
half	+	+	+	+	+	+	fél
very, same	–	–	+	–	–	+	éppen ez/az, ugyanez/-az
only*	–	–	+	+	–	+	egyetlen
certain	+	+	+	+	+	+	bizonyos
such	+	+	–	+	+	+	ilyen/olyan
other	+	+	+	+	+	+	másik, más
				–	–	+	többi
many, few	+	+	+	+	–	+	sok, kevés
much	+	–	–	+	–	+	sok
little	+	+	+	+	+	+	kevés
several	+	–	+	+	–	+	számos
1, 2, 3, 4, ...	+	–	+	+	–	+	1, 2, 3, 4, ...
ordinals	+	+	+	+	+	+	ordinals

**an only child*, a set phrase where *only* occurs with the indefinite article.

1 The determiners represented in Table IV are not complete equivalents in English and Hungarian (in regard to their range), nor is the list exhaustive.

The co-occurrence of determiners (pre-, central, and postdeterminers, as well as other limiting adjectives) with the articles are represented in Table IV.

1.12 *Characteristics of articles.*

Structurally there are three articles in Hungarian and four in English (both with allomorphic variants).

The articles in Hungarian:

Definite article: a /ɑ-/, *az* /ɑz/.

Historically it derives from the demonstrative pronoun: *az*. The choice of allomorphs depends on the sound following the article; *a* occurs before consonants and *az* before vowel sounds: *a szék* (the chair), *az asztal* (the table).

Indefinite article: egy /edj/.

Historically it derives from the cardinal number *egy* (one). The indefinite article has the same form as the cardinal number *one*, but is always unstressed.

Zero article: no overt form; it is symbolized by a crossed zero: ϕ.

The articles in English:

Definite article: the /ðiː, ði, ðə, ð/.

Historically it derives from the demonstrative pronoun: *that*. The allomorph /ði/ occurs before vowel sounds, /ðə/ in rapid speech, /ð/ occurs in other cases. The stressed form /ðiː/ is chiefly used when the word is emphasized or is pronounced by itself: the apple /ði: æ pl/ (az alma), the table /ðə teibl/ (az asztal).

Indefinite article: a /eɪ, ə/, *an* /æ n, ə n, n/.

Historically it derives from the cardinal number *one*. The allomorph /ən/, written *an*, occurs before vowel sounds; the allomorph /ə/, written *a*, before consonants. The stressed forms /æ n/ and /eɪ/ occur when the word is emphasized or pronounced by itself: *an apple* /ə n æ pl/ (egy alma), *a table* /ə teɪbl/ (egy asztal).

The other indefinite article in English is *some* /sm/ with secondary or tertiary stress: *some water* /smwɔ:tə/ (víz), *some books* /smbuks/ (könyvek).

Zero article: no overt form; it is symbolized as ϕ.

Most nominal constructions in both languages contain one of the articles. The articles almost always occur as the first member of the phrase, signalling the presence of a noun and marking one end of the nominal construction. In these functions all articles (with overt form) are equivalent. But each of them also signals something additional, as discussed in 1.121–3.

1.121 *The definite article (the, a/az)* has been variously described as: „determinative, defining, individualizing, particularizing, specializing, descriptive, familiarizing, actualizing, concretizing, substantivizing, etc.," (Christophersen 1939:51).

The definite article in both languages may be used before singular as well as plural nouns. It may be separated from its noun head by one or more other words (modifiers):

the old house
a régi ház;

the most beautiful picture I have ever seen
a legszebb kép, amit valaha is láttam

The definite article in English may have a weak demonstrative force, corresponding to *that*. In this case the demonstrative pronoun is used in Hungarian:

I couldn't remember anything at *the* (that) moment.
Semmire sem tudtam emlékezni *abban a* pillanatban.

He wasn't at home at *the* time (at that time).
Nem volt otthon *abban az* időben (akkor).

In both languages in the majority of cases the definite article indicates that the following noun refers to a particular human being, animate object, or thing – as distinct from others of the same kind – known by both the speaker and hearer.

In both languages the use of the definite article may be required (1) before a noun which has been defined earlier by previous mention in the discourse (explicit-contextual basis, Christophersen 1939:29); (2) before other nouns, the referents of which are mutually known from previous discourse (implicit-contextual basis, Christophersen 1939:29), or (3) before a noun the referent of which can be indicated, and therefore may be considered definite without having been mentioned previously.

(1) Explicit-contextual basis:
There is *a* book on the table. *The* book is blue.
Egy könyv van az asztalon. *A* könyv kék.

(2) Implicit-contextual basis:
There is *a* school in the neighborhood. During the breaks *the* windows are open, and *the* children in *the* classrooms are noisy.
A szomszédban van *egy* iskola. A szünetekben *az* ablakok nyitva vannak és *a* gyermekek lármáznak *az* osztályokban.

(3a) Situational basis in its narrowest sense:
Give me *the* book.
Add ide *a* könyvet.

(3b) Situational basis in a wider sense:
The strike of the postmen caused problems for *the* government.
A postássztrájk problémát/gondot okozott *a* kormánynak.
(From an English newspaper; the example clearly refers to the British government.)

(3c) Situational basis in the widest sense (expressing uniqueness, mutually known):
The sun shines brightly there all year.
Egész évben ragyogóan süt ott *a* nap.

In Hungarian the presence of the definite article is closely related to the selection of the appropriate conjugation of the verb. There are two sets of personal inflectional suffixes, one for the indefinite conjugation (called „alanyi" in Hungarian) and the other for the definite (called „tárgyas" in Hungarian). When the noun in object position is preceded by the definite article or by another definite determiner, the verb is used in the definite conjugation:

Péter szeret *egy* csinos lányt.
(Peter loves a pretty girl.)

Péter szeret*i a* lányt.
(Peter loves the girl.)

1.122 *The indefinite article (a/an -egy)* in both languages is used with countable nouns (1.21) in the singular. In the case of uncountable nouns, the indefinite article can be used only for expressing: *a kind of/ a sort of/ a piece of...:*

A boy is running in the street.
Egy fiú szaladgál az utcán.

We had *a* wine I had never tasted before.
Olyan bort kaptunk, amilyet még sohasem ízleltem azelőtt.

In both languages the indefinite article may be separated from its noun head by one or more other words (modifiers):

a young boy
egy fiatal fiú

a very interesting book
egy nagyon érdekes könyv

„[In English] the indefinite article indicates that the word it precedes denotes an individual member of a class. It denotes one member of the class or species concerned but it does not indicate which member" (Jespersen 1949 VII: 418). His statement applies equally to Hungarian.

Besides its introductory and individualizing function in specified noun phrases [+Specific], the indefinite article can also express genericness [-Specific] in English.

While the indefinite article individualizes the noun, the cardinal number – *one* and *egy* respectively – combined with the noun emphasizes this individualization. (The article is unstressed, the cardinal number is stressed in both languages.):

A boy is running.
Egy fiú szaladgál. (unstressed *egy*)

One boy is running.
Egy fiú szaladgál. (stressed *egy*)
(one boy is running, not two or more)

The other indefinite article in English is *some*. Recently several linguists (Hill 1958:188, Palmer 1969:54, Gleason 1955:224, et al.) have analyzed the unstressed variant of *some*; more precisely, *some* with secondary or tertiary stress, as an article used with uncountable nouns in the singular and with countable nouns in the plural. (The meaning and use of *some* under primary stress will not be dealt with here.) Consequently, in several recent textbooks on English, *some* is viewed in the case of countable nouns as the plural equivalent of the indefinite article *a/an* (e.g., D. Campton and G. Broughton, *Slim John*, British Television Series):

There is ϕ milk in the glass.
ϕ Tej van a pohárban.
A pohárban ϕ tej van.

There is *some* milk in the glass.
ϕ Tej van a pohárban.
Egy kis tej van a pohárban.

Give me *some* bread, please.
ϕ Kenyeret kérek.
Kérek *egy kis* kenyeret.

Give me *some* more bread, please.
Kérek még *egy kis* kenyeret.

A boy is running in the garden.
Egy fiú szaladgál a kertben.

ϕ Boys are running in the garden.
ϕ Fiúk szaladgálnak a kertben.

Some boys are running in the garden.
ϕ Fiúk szaladgálnak a kertben.

Hungarian does not always have an overt counterpart – an article or other determiner – for this use of English *some*. Very often *some* corresponds to the zero article in Hungarian, as can be seen from the above examples. In the case of uncountable nouns, *some* can be expressed optionally with the words *egy kis* (a little), denoting some partitivity. Other interesting Hungarian parallels for English *some:*

Some cat was sitting at the door.
Valami/Egy macska ült az ajtóban.

Some fool or other broke it.
Valami/Egy hülye összetörte.

Some progress had been made.
Némi haladás történt.

1.123 *The zero article* (ϕ) – probably because it has neither phonologic nor graphemic overt form – was generally neglected in earlier grammars of both languages, but in modern linguistic literature the zero article has received full attention and has become important in contrasting the use of articles in English and Hungarian. Omission of articles in the two languages does not always indicate that a noun: (1) has lost its nominal function, as in the case of nominal adjuncts in English (example a); (2) is not used as a phrase head, as in the case of non-individualized singular countable nouns in Hungarian (example b); (3) is not determined, as in the case of proper names in both English and Hungarian (example c):

(a) stone wall (kőfal)
space flight (űrrepülés)
garden flower (kerti virág)

(b) ϕ Lány van a kertben.
(There are girls in the garden [?])
Egy lány van a kertben.
(There is a girl in the garden.)
A lány a kertben van.
(The girl is in the garden.)

(c) ϕ John came home late last night.
ϕ János későn jött haza tegnap este.

Distinction must be made, of course, between these cases and those where the noun phrase contains a determiner other than an article:

ϕ Boys are running.
ϕ Fiúk szaladgálnak.

All boys are running.
Minden/Valamennyi fiú szaladgál.

1.2 *Determined words; classification of nouns.*

Classical and traditional grammars usually distinguish eight parts of speech. However, as Fries points out (1952:69), mixed criteria are sometimes employed using „lexical" meaning as the basis for the definition of some classes, „function in the sentence" and „formal" characteristics for others. He emphasizes that for classification purposes a single set of criteria must be consistently applied.

In this part of the study we are interested in the class of words occurring with determiners, especially with articles. Articles must refer to nouns, while nouns can occur without articles; i.e., with the zero article or other determiners. Therefore, the class of words called nouns which are more central than, but related to, function words (determiners) must be analyzed to see which nouns can be preceded by a determiner – especially by an overtly marked article – and if they can, which determiner should be used. Nouns constitute an open class; nouns (except proper names and relational nouns) have full meaning and inherent stress, and they can act as head of an noun phrase.

We can refer to nouns in three ways: (1) In their distribution, nouns in both English and Hungarian can follow determiners and/or other adjectives (in English, prepositions also). A noun can stand in adjunct relationship directly before another noun or in the genitive after a noun. (2) In their morphology, nouns vary according to number, case (characteristic of Hungarian), and gender (characteristic of English). (3) In their lexical meaning, several subgroups of nouns are distinguished. The Webster's *New Collegiate Dictionary* (1956) definition can be applied to Hungarian, as well:[1]

> A noun is a word that is a name of a subject of discourse as a person, place, thing, idea, quality, action. Its abbreviation is N. A *common noun* (or appelative) (*table, house, boy* [*asztal, ház, fiú*]) is one that names any of a class of beings or things (or specifically in English, in a classification based on form, one that may take a limiting modifier). One that names a group of beings or things of the same kind (*jury,*

1 Hungarian examples have been inserted and italics added for emphasis.

flock [*esküdtbíróság, versenybíróság; nyáj, falka, raj*]) is usually called a *collective noun.* One that names quality, activity or state considered apart from any particular being or thing (*weight, belief, peace* [*súly, hit, béke*]) is usually called an *abstract noun.* A *proper noun* is one that names a particular being or thing (or specially in English in a classification based on form, one that does not regularly take a limiting modifier) (Shakespeare, America [Petőfi, Amerika]), or one that regularly takes the definite article (the Mississippi [river], the Missouri [ship], [a Mississippi, a Visegrád]).

For the further analysis of determiners, nouns must also be examined by reference to number.

1.21–1.22 English nouns fall into two major number classes. One class contains nouns where the singular-plural distinction occurs, the other where the nouns are not subject to number variation. Jespersen (1913) uses the terms „thing word" and „mass-word"; Bloomfield (1933) „bounded noun" and „unbounded noun"; Christophersen (1939) „unit word" and „continuate word." Gleason (1955) applies the terms „count noun" and „mass noun" to express roughly the same notion. In this paper nouns in the former class are called *countables;* those in the latter class, *uncountables.*

Strang (1968:106) makes reference to countable nouns:

> The distinction is most often made between singular as referring to none or one and plural as referring to more than one. But in informal and unselfconscious usage, the distinction is usually between one (singular) and other-than-one (plural). For instance according to one's 'style', both the following sentences are possible in reference to the same situation: *'No children were there'* and *'No child was there'.*

Uncountable nouns in English can be subdivided into two subtypes: nouns lacking a plural (*mathematics, information*), and those lacking a singular (*scissors, trousers*).

There is less distinction between countable and uncountable nouns in Hungarian. Hungarian nouns have usually been classified according to their semantic value – i.e., as common, collective, abstract, material, and proper nouns – and not on the basis of form and function. The literature of Hungarian nouns does not deal extensively with the question of countability, that is, with the use of the singular and plural forms of nouns.

The problem of accounting for the system of countability has not been solved. Jespersen's statement (1913 II:70) apparently still holds:

> What objects can be counted together depends on the classification expressed linguistically. In many cases the classification is so natural that it is practically identical in most languages; but there are, in many cases, differences called forth by varieties in linguistic structure... .

This unresolved problem will be shown to have implications in the case of English and Hungarian throughout this paper. Since it is more relevant to English than to Hungarian, mainly English nouns will be analyzed, with certain references where relevant to Hungarian. The problem in Hungarian requires detailed analysis which cannot be undertaken in this paper.

In the case of countable nouns, the categories singular and plural apply to words having the idea of things of a certain shape or precise limits which cannot be subdivided or merged, whether they denote material things:

house/houses – ház/házak,
table/tables – asztal/asztalok,
boy/boys – fiú/fiúk;

or non-material items:

day/days – nap/napok,
word/words – szó/szavak,
event/events – esemény/események.

In the case of uncountable nouns, the words call up the idea of something that can be subdivided or merged. Uncountable nouns may refer to material items existing independently, denoting substance in itself:

gold – arany, water – víz, milk – tej,
flour – liszt, clay – agyag, air – levegő;

or to non-material ideas:

(a) denoting an abstract notion (formally many are derived from verbs and adjectives):

beauty – szépség, progress – haladás, music – zene, traffic – forgalom, safety – biztonság, knowledge – tudás, admiration – csodálat, satisfaction – megelégedettség, clearness – világosság;

(b) expressing names of sciences or subjects:

physics – fizika, mathematics – matematika,
chemistry – kémia, politics – politika.

Notwithstanding the fact that the notion singularity-plurality is inapplicable to uncountables, there is a miscellaneous group of nouns in English with plural form but without the meaning of plurality: in Hungarian these words are in the singular form:

news (újság), billiards (billiárd), draughts (dáma), and other names of games or diseases: measles (kanyaró), mumps (mumpsz), hysterics (hisztéria), small-pox (fekete himlő).

When an uncountable noun is used in the plural it expresses:

(a) different sorts/kinds of the substance in question:

wine/wines – bor/borok (borfajták);

(b) a limited quantity or portion of the substance. In colloquial speech in both languages, instead of using the partitive genitive as in:

Two cups of coffee, please.
Két csésze kávét kérek.

one can say:

Two coffees, please.
Két kávét kérek.

(c) a more or less differentiated sense in English:

air/airs as in *to give oneself airs*
(levegő/ felvág, adja a bankot).

There are cases when a noun without a change of form refers to either an object, or to a material or abstract notion. This may be either because a word denoting a material is transferred to a thing or object, or inversely:

ϕ *Iron* is a metal.
(A vas fém.)
I press the shirts with *an iron.*
(*ϕ* Vasalóval vasalom az ingeket.)

It is wrapped in ϕ *paper.*
ϕ *Papírba* van csomagolva.
You'll find it among *the papers* on my desk.
Megtalálod *a papírok*/íratok közt az íróasztalomon.
Give him *the paper* to read.
(Add oda neki az újságot, hogy olvassa.)

ϕ *Time* flies.
Az idő repül.
Have *a good time!*
(Érezd jól magad. ϕ Jó szórakozást!)
There was *a time* when I had ϕ *time* to read.
Volt ϕ *idő,* amikor volt *időm* az olvasásra.

He has ϕ *experience.*
(Van ϕ tapasztalata. ϕ Tapasztalattal rendelkezik.)
They had *a lot of experiences* during their journey.
(Sok élményük volt az utazás alatt.)

Nouns contrasted in the above and similar cases are considered as separate words in our analysis.

According to our data this phenomenon is rarer in Hungarian, where often another lexical item (*tapasztalat; élmény* [*experience/experiences*]), or a derived word (*vas/vasaló* [*iron/an iron*]) is used. However, this question must be further investigated in light of counter-examples in which the same word denotes an object or an abstract notion in Hungarian:

Mi ϕ *újság?*
(What's the news?)
Hol vannak *az újságok?*
(Where are the newspapers?)

Ez a korsó ϕ *üvegből* készült.
(This jug is made of ϕ glass.)
Add ide *az üveget.*
(Give me the bottle/jar.)

In those cases in which there is no special word or form to denote one of the single elements of an uncountable referent, such phrases as: *a piece/ a bit/ an article/ an item of .../ egy darab/ egy szelet/ egy kis...* must be used:

a piece of furniture	bútor*darab*
a piece of information	(egy információ)
a bit of modesty	*egy kis* szerénység
a bit of luck	*egy kis* szerencse
an article of clothing	ruha*darab*
a piece of bread	*egy darab* kenyér
a slice of meat	*egy szelet* hús, etc.,
egy szőlő*szem*	(a grape)
egy borsó*szem*	(a pea)
egy *szem* cseresznye	(a cherry)
egy *szem* dió	(a nut) etc.

A few other important factors should be noted. From the above it is clear that whether a noun belongs to the group of countables can be a characteristic feature of the individual language, and is largely dependent on the things denoted; e.g., *information* is uncountable in English, but countable in Hungarian; kinds of fruit are countable in English, but uncountable in Hungarian in certain context. It can also be seen that it does not matter whether or not a noun has the appearance of a plural, its relation to other words in the sentence shows that words of this type are grammatically singular:

ϕ *Mathematics is a* difficult subject.
(A matematika nehéz tantárgy.)

ϕ Measles is an unpleasant disease.
(A kanyaró kellemetlen betegség.)

Finally, uncountable nouns must be distinguished from similar words which are countable:

ϕ Life is hard.
Az élet nehéz.

He lived *a diligent life.*
ϕ Dolgos életet élt.

In tales the heroes have *several lives.*
A mesékben a hősöknek *több életük* van.

The other subtype in English includes uncountables lacking a singular:

(a) words evidently plural in form:

bowels/belek, braces (nadrágtartó), *glasses* (szemüveg), *oats* (árpa), *scissors* (olló), *trousers* (nadrág);

(b) a few nouns which do not take the plural ending (*-s* in English):

cattle (szarvasmarha), *clergy/papság, gentry/köznemesség,* (dzsentri), *police/rendőrség.*

To denote a single element, numeratives can be applied:

a pair of trousers	(egy nadrág)
a pair of scissors	(egy olló)
a pair of glasses	(egy szemüveg)
80 *head of* cattle	(80 szarvasmarha).

In the foregoing discussion countable and uncountable nouns have been characterized and classified according to whether or not the singular-plural distinction can be applied to them. But there are four other formal criteria for classifying nouns in English and Hungarian: (1) Can the English noun be modified by *much?* (2) Can the English noun in the singular be modified by *all?* (3) Can both the English and Hungarian nouns be preceded by the indefinite article (*a/an -egy*)? (4) Can the English noun in the singular function as a subject without an article (or other determiner)?

(1) Can the English noun be modifed by *much?* Nouns which can be preceded by *much* are uncountables, and those which cannot be are countables:

much water (sok víz),
much bread (sok kenyér)
much music (sok zene)
much joy (sok öröm),

but: + much tables.

However, countable nouns in English can be modified by *many*; or in both English and Hungarian by cardinal numbers (1, 2, 3, ...):

many tables (sok asztal)
many houses (sok ház)
two dogs/ két kutya
three cats/ három macska

but: + many water, + two music/ +két zene

Since there is no distinction between quantifiers and numerals in Hungarian as there is in English, this criterion cannot be applied to distinguish countable and uncountable nouns in Hungarian:

sok kenyér (much bread)
sok asztal (many tables)
kevés kenyér (little bread)
kevés asztal (few tables).

From the above examples another characteristic of Hungarian can be noticed: quantifiers or numerals themselves are sufficient as markers of plurality, while in English (except for a few syncretic nouns such as: *deer, fish, sheep, game,* etc.) nouns combined with quantifiers or numerals are still marked overtly for plurality:

ϕ house*s*/ ϕ ház*ak*

but:

sok ház _ /many house*s*,
két asztal_ / two table*s*
(ϕ morpheme in Hungarian, plural suffix in English)[1]

There is also a difference in agreement between the subject and the verbal predicate. In English the plural nouns, even the syncretic forms, preceded by a quantifier or by a cardinal number (except *one*) demand a plural verb form if it can be marked overtly; in such cases in Hungarian the verb is in the singular:

The boy*s are* running in the street.
A fiú*k* szaladgál*nak* az utcán.

Three boy*s were* running in the street.
Három fiú_ szaladgál_ az utcán.

Many sheep *are* grazing in the fields.
Sok birka_ legelész*ik* a mezőn.

1 See: J. Lotz (1943)

(2) Can the English noun in the singular be modified by *all*? In cases where *all* can be used with a noun in the singular, the noun is uncountable; when it can be used with a noun in the plural, the noun is countable:

Mary spent *all* day at the beach.
Mária az *egész* napot a strandon töltötte.

It took *all* year to finish the work.
A munka bevégzése egy *egész* évet igényelt.

She is *all* woman.
Ő maga az asszonyi*ság*.[1]
(rare in both languages)

In Hungarian *all* has different determiner equivalents: *egész* occurs with uncountable nouns, *valamennyi* with countable nouns, *mind(en); összes* can occur with both categories.

All men are equal.
Minden (Valamennyi/ Az összes) ember egyenlő.

He could not answer *all* the letters.
Nem tudott válaszolni *valamennyi (minden/ az összes)* levélre.

All (the) schools were closed down because of the epidemic.
Az összes (Valamennyi) iskolát bezárták a járvány miatt.
Minden iskolát bezártak a járvány miatt.

It was raining *all* day.
Egész nap esett.

I spent *all* my money.
Az összes (Minden) pénzemet elköltöttem.

(3) Can both the English and Hungarian nouns be modified by the indefinite article? An unmodified noun is countable when it can be preceded by the indefinite article *(a/an-egy)* in its individualizing function:

There is *a* table in the room.
Egy asztal van a szobában.

He ate *an* apple before breakfast.
Reggeli előtt megevett *egy* almát.

but:

+ A life is hard.
+ Egy élet nehéz.

1 The use of *all* in this example is different from the other examples, which can be seen also in its Hungarian equivalent.

+ I am listening to *a* music.
+ Hallgatok *egy* zenét.

(4) Can an English noun in the singular function as a subject without an article? Only uncountable nouns can function as a subject without a determiner in English; however, this distinction cannot be made in Hungarian because of the existing opposition of „individualized" and „non-individualized" nouns (1.3):

A boy is running in the street.
Egy fiú szaladgál az utcán.

The boy is running in the street.
A fiú szaladgál az utcán.

+ ϕ Boy is running in the street.
ϕ Fiú szaladgál az utcán.

ϕ Time is money.
Az idő pénz.

ϕ Blood is running in his veins.
ϕ Vér folyik az ereiben.

1.23 *Nominalized adjectives and proper nouns.*

So far in our classification only central nouns (i.e., common nouns and uncountable nouns denoting concrete or abstract notions) have been dealt with. Two other „marginal" groups should be mentioned: *substantivized/ nominalized adjectives* and *proper nouns.*

Nominalized adjectives can function as nouns but, at the same time, retain certain characteristics of adjectives. In other words, they reach different stages of nominalization. Some cannot change formally and therefore can express either singularity or plurality. Others can change formally and therefore can denote both singular and plural entities.
Only singular:

the beautiful (a szép),
the good (a jó),
the bad (a rossz)

Only plural:

the rich (a gazdagok),
the poor (a szegények),
the young (a fiatalok),
the old (az öregek)

Both singular and plural:

the black/blacks (a fekete/feketék)

In Hungarian all adjectives can express both singular and plural entities:

a jó/jók
a gazdag/gazdagok

In their meaning some groups of adjectives are frequently used as nouns; i.e., as head of a nominal phrase:
Names of colors:

ϕ *Blue* is a nice color.
A kék (egy) szép szín.

That dark shade of ϕ *lilac* does not suit her.
Az *a* sötét *lila* nem áll jól neki.

Names of nations/nationalities:

the English (*az* angolok)
the Portuguese – *a* portugál/portugálok
the American/Americans – *az* amerikai/*az* amerikaiak.

Certain *temporal adverbs* can also function as nouns:

Enjoy ϕ *today*, do not think of ϕ *tomorrow*.
Élvezd *a mát*, s ne gondolj *a holnappal*.

Proper nouns function syntactically in the same way as central nouns, but the singular-plural distinction does not apply to them and they have a different relation to determiners.

The following large subgroups are distinguished by their meaning in both English and Hungarian:
Names of persons:

John/János,
Mary/Mária,
Mr. Smith/Kovács úr

Names of animals:

Gipsy/Cirmi (for a cat),
Rover/Bundás (for a dog),
Elsa/Leo (for a lion).

Names of unique entitites:

the Sun/ *a* Nap,
the Moon/*a* Hold,
the Earth/*a* Föld,

Venus/*a* Vénusz,
Mars/*a* Mars.

Geographical Names:

Names of bodies of water:

the Atlantic (Ocean) /*az* Atlanti-óceán ,
the (river) Danube/*a* Duna,
Lake Michigan/*a* Michigan-tó

Names of mountains:

Ben Nevis/*a* Ben Nevis,
Gellért Hill/*a* Gellérthegy,
Mount Everest/*a* Mount Everest,
the Alps/*az* Alpok.

Names of islands:

the Bahamas/*a* Bahama szigetek,
Margaret Island/*a* Margitsziget.

Names of countries:

Hungary/Magyarország,
England/Anglia,
the United States/*az* Egyesült Államok,
the Congo/Kongo,
the Argentine/Argentina.

Names of towns:

London,
Budapest,
Boston,
The Hague/Hága.

Names of streets, roads, parks:

Oxford Street/*az* Oxford Street,
High Stret/*a* Főutca,
Rákóczi Road/*a* Rákóczi út,
Piccadilly/*a* Piccadilly,
Hyde Park/*a* Hyde Park.

Names of buildings, institutes, associations:

the Tower/*a* Tower,
the Castle/*a* Vár,
Westminster Abbey/ *a* westminsteri dóm,
Buckingham Palace/*a* Buckingham palota,

the Capitol/*a* Capitol
the White House/*a* Fehér-Ház,
the Hilton (Hotel)/*a* Hilton Szálloda,
the Ritz/*a* Ritz,
the United Nations/*az* Egyesült Nemzetek.

Titles of books, newspapers, periodicals:

Paradise Lost/*Az* elveszett paradicsom,
The Jungle Book/*A* dzsungel könyve
An Introduction to Linguistics/Bevezetés a nyelvtudományba,

The Observer, *The* Evening News, *The* Times
Magyar Nemzet, Esti Hírlap, Népszabadság,
Language, Life, American Speech,
Nyelvőr, Új írás, Nagy Világ

Some nouns within these groups cannot occur with determiners, others contain a determiner as a part of the proper noun itself, undergoing no changes in the discourse. This would suggest that in the use of the determiners proper nouns would offer few problems to the learner. It should be pointed out that their distribution in relation to the article is different in English and Hungarian which makes them a source of errors. But this relationship will not be analyzed in the present paper.

1.3 *Noun Phrases.*

Following the classification of determiners (1.1) and nouns (1.2), their relationship must now be examined. First the distribution of the determiners will be described relative to the nouns they modify, with illustrative examples.

A noun phrase (NP) in English and Hungarian consists of a noun head modified by a determiner – according to traditional classification either a pronoun, an article, or both.[1] Besides the noun and determiner, an NP may contain an adjectival, nominal, and/or numerical attributive (1.4).

1 Every language has certain universal categories (e.g., NP, pronoun), but not all languages possess the category of articles; e.g., there is no article in the Slavonic languages (except Bulgarian), in the Finno-Ugrian languages (except Hungarian), or in Latin. Languages having no article express the same notion by means of other grammatical categories. Most Indo-European languages have the category of articles. Some of them use post-positive articles; e.g., Albanian, Bulgarian, Romanian, and the Scandinavian languages. Other languages use preclitic articles; e.g., English, French, German, Italian. Both English and Hungarian possess preclitic articles.

Table V. The distribution of determiners relative to nouns.

Nouns		
Countable		Uncountable
Singular	Plural	
the – a/az – ϕ a/an – egy – this/that – ez/az	the – a/az ϕ – ϕ – some – ϕ these/those – ezek/azok	the – a/az ϕ – ϕ – some – ϕ this/that – ez/az
my, your, his, her, its, our, their (én)...-m, (te)...-d, (ő, maga, ön)...-e, (mi)...-nk, (ti)...-tek, (ő)...-uk		
– some$_2$/any$_2$ – valami, valamilyen, valamiféle any$_2$(aff.) – bármilyen, akármilyen not any/no–egyetlen...sem every – mindegyik each – mindenegyes either – egyik, bármelyik neither – egyik...sem – the whole – egész half – fél the very – éppen ez/az a certain – egy bizonyos such a – ilyen/olyan another – egy másik the only – egyetlen 1	some$_1$/any$_1$ – néhány some$_2$/any$_2$ – valami, valamilyen/-féle any$_2$(aff.)– bármilyen, akármilyen not any/no – semmilyen...sem/nincs – – – – both – mindkét/-kettő the whole – egész, teljes all – összes, mind(en), valamennyi half – fél the very – éppen ezek/azok certain – bizonyos such – ilyen/olyan other – más, többi – many – sok few – kevés a few, several – néhány 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, ...	some$_1$/any$_1$ – némi, valamelyes/-mennyi some$_2$/any$_2$ – valami, valamilyen/-féle any$_2$(aff.)–bármilyen, akármilyen not any/no – semmi...nem/nincs – – – – – the whole – egész all – egész, összes half – fél the very – éppen ez/az – such – ilyen/olyan other – más the only – egyetlen much – sok little – kevés a little – egy kevés –
first, second, third, fourth, fifth, ... első, második, harmadik, negyedik, ötödik, ...		–

In the use of determiners, it is also important which syntactic position the NP takes in the sentence.

The role of a determiner in both English and Hungarian is to restrict or widen, to specify or generalize the meaning of the modified noun. An NP can be specified by its relation to a given situation (extra-linguistic factor) [-Anaph] or to a context (linguistic factor) [+Anaph]; in either case it is actualized [+Act] and when an NP contains a countable noun it is individualized [+Indiv]. When an NP expresses genericness [-Specific], it is not individualized [-Indiv] and not actualized [-Act].

NP_1 → [+Indiv, -Act]
NP_2 → [+Anaph] → [+Indiv, +Act]

Once upon a time there was [a poor man]$_{NP_1}$
[The poor man]$_{NP_2}$ had several children.
Egyszer volt, hol nem volt, volt egyszer
[egy szegény ember]$_{NP_1}$. [A szegény embernek]$_{NP_2}$
számtalan gyermeke volt.

NP → [-Anaph] → [+Act]

ϕ Man is mortal.
Az ember halandó.

In Hungarian there is another case when an NP is non-actualized and non-individualized (individualization is irrelevant) without expressing genericness:

NP_H → [-Indiv, -Act]

ϕ Egér van a szobában.

There is no formal equivalent in English; the meaning can be expressed roughly in two ways:

There is *a* mouse in the room.
There are ϕ mice in the room.

NP → [+Indiv, -Act]

Egy egér van a szobában.
There is *a* mouse in the room.

NP → [+Indiv, +Act]

Az egér a szobában van.
The mouse is in the room.

The relation of individualization with verb aspect in Hungarian should also be considered. A non-individualized, non-actualized countable noun in

Hungarian cannot co-occur with a verb in the perfect aspect (similarly to that of the generic use in both languages):

ϕ Egeret látott a szobában.

but:

+ ϕ Egeret látott meg a szobában.

Definiteness is a syntactic category and applies to NPs containing both countable or uncountable nouns.

NPs with countable nouns. Definiteness applies only to individualized countable nouns. The most important elements of definiteness are identification [+Y] and actualization [+Act], which are characteristic features of the definite article and the demonstrative in both English and Hungarian. Their difference lies only in the deixis:

Definite article → [+Def] → [+Y, +Act]
Demonstrative → [+Def, +Deic] → [+Y, +Act, +Deic]

Both speaker and hearer know which item is meant; the book is identified by the situation:

Give me *the* book, please.
Add ide *a* könyvet, kérlek.

There are several books in front of the speaker and hearer, and only a certain one or certain ones are asked for. Emphatic identification is expressed by the demonstratives:

Give me *that* book.
Add ide *azt a* könyvet.

Give me *those* books.
Add ide *azokat a* könyveket.

The demonstrative refers back to an antecedent:

There is a good film on at the cinema.
I have already seen *that* film.
Egy jó film megy a moziban.
Már láttam (azt a filmet).

In Hungarian the demonstrative is frequently used to point forward to a restrictive relative clause (1.44):

I want the book that is in the top-right corner.
Azt a könyvet akarom, amelyik a jobb felső sarokban van.

NPs with uncountable nouns. Uncountable nouns can be divided on the basis of meaning and are analyzed separately in relation to determiners in the NP.

An uncountable noun referring to a material entity can be defined and identified, but not individualized:

NP → [-Count, +Concr, -Def, -Total]

Would you drink *some* wine?
Inna ϕ bort?
Inna *a* borból?

The noun is neither defined nor identified; it expresses partiality (i.e., it refers to a part of the material denoted by the noun [-Total]). In such cases the article *some* is used in English in contrast to the zero article in Hungarian; when the definite article occurs with the noun, partiality is indicated by a suffix in Hungarian.

In both the English and Hungarian sentences the NP expresses totality (i.e., it refers to the total amount of the material denoted by the noun); the noun *wine* is defined and identified with the help of the definite article:

NP → [-Count, +Concr, +Def, +Total]

Will you drink *the* wine?
Megissza *a* bort?

The demonstrative can also occur with uncountable nouns since the material entity they refer to is concrete, both in situational (extra-linguistic) and contextual (linguistic) reference:

NP → Dem + N [-Count, +Concr, +Def, +Total]

I want *this* wine.
Ezt a bort akarom.

Uncountable nouns denoting an abstract notion generally have an invariant relation to determiners (when the NP is unmodified) which depends only on the syntactical function of the NP:

NP → [-Count, -Concr]

ϕ Happiness made her cry.
A boldogság könnyekre fakasztotta.
Könnyekre fakasztotta *a* boldogság.

At last he found ϕ happiness in his work.
Végre munkájában megtalálta *a* boldogságot.

He found ϕ joy in his work.
ϕ Örömet lelt a munkájában.
A munkájában lelt ϕ örömet.

Both kinds of uncountables may occur with the zero article when emphasis is involved.

In English *the demonstrative* and *the definite article* exclude each other. However, in Hungarian the demonstrative and the definite article generally occur together except when the short form of the demonstrative is used in certain expressions:

This book is yours, *that* book is mine.
Ez a könyv a tied, *az a* könyv meg az enyém.

At *this* moment somebody knocked at the door.
E pillanatban/*Ebben a* pillanatban valaki kopogott az ajtón.

Identification can be expressed by many other determiners in both languages, such as: *the very/éppen ez, the same/ugyanaz.*

Possessive adjectives can also express definiteness as well as correlation between the possessor and the possessed. In English they can never occur with the definite article. On the other hand, in Hungarian possessiveness is expressed by suffixes attached to the grammatical possession and the definite article can precede the noun. The personal pronouns can emphasize their correlation, and in this case in Hungarian the use of the definite article is obligatory:

His book is on the table.
A könyve az asztalon van.

His book is more beautiful than mine.
Az ő könyve sokkal szebb, mint az enyém.

Not all NPs in either language go through a complete process of definitization. In the case of countable nouns there are individualized but not actualized NPs as well. In both languages individualization is expressed by the indefinite article:

NP → [+Count, – Plural, -Def]
[-Def] → [+Indiv, -Act, -Y]

A girl was coming towards the house.
Egy lány közeledett a ház felé.
A ház felé *egy* lány közeledett.

Other indefinite determiners do not individualize the nouns they modify, but they can define the agglomerations or express totality for both countable and uncountable nouns:

NP → [+Total]

All boys like to play football.
Minden/Valamennyi fiú szeret futballozni.

It was raining *all* day.
Egész nap esett.

He ate *a whole* apple.
Egy egész almát megevett.

By the occurrence of the definite article, the NPs marked for totality by other determiners can be actualized and identified, and in Hungarian the verb occurs in the perfect aspect with the definite conjugation:

NP → [+Total, +Act, +Y]

He drank *all the* wine.
Az egész bort *meg*itta.
*Meg*itta *az egész* bort.

He ate the whole apple.
Az egész almát *meg*ette.
*Meg*ette *az egész* almát.

He wrote *all the* exercises.
Az összes feladatot *meg*írta.
*Meg*írta *az összes* feladatot.

In both languages one element can be selected from an agglomeration with the help of the determiners:

either/egyik (one out of two)
one of/egyik (one out of many – more than two)
any/bármelyik/akármelyik

In these cases the agglomeration is definite but the element is not defined, actualized, nor identified:

There are two books on the table. Take *either* book.
Két könyv van az asztalon. Vedd el *az egyik* könyvet.

The boy ate *one of* the apples.
A fiú megette *az egyik* almát.

There are several books here on this topic. You can take *any* book you wish.
Erről a témáról sok könyv van itt. *Bármelyik/Akármelyik* könyvet elviheted.

In both languages negators may deny not only the existence of something in its totality, but also the individual elements of the agglomeration as well. While in English the NP is always preceded by one of the negative determiners, in Hungarian negation is very often expressed in the verbal phrase:

I have *no* brothers and sisters.
*Nincsenek_* testvéreim.

There is *no* water in the glass.
*Nincs_* víz a pohárban.
A pohárban *nincs_* víz.

There are *not any* English books on the shelf.
*Nincsenek_* angol könyvek a polcon.
A polcon *nincsenek_* angol könyvek.

Nincsen egyetlen egy angol könyv *sem* a polcon.
Semmilyen angol könyv *nincs* a polcon.

John did *not* dance with *either* girl.
John danced with *neither* girl.
János *egyik* lánnyal *sem* táncolt.

John did *not* dance with *any* girls.
János *semelyik* lánnyal *nem* táncolt.
János *semelyik* lánnyal *sem* táncolt.
János *egyetlen* lánnyal *sem* táncolt.

There was *no* mistake in the test-paper.
Egyetlen hiba *sem* volt a dolgozatban.
Semmi hiba *sem* volt a dolgozatban.

1.4 *Modification of noun phrases.*

In both English and Hungarian nouns can be modified by nouns, by other parts of speech, and even by syntactical units. So far only determiners modifying nouns have been treated, although predeterminers were also touched upon. Other modification structures will now be analyzed. These can be classified according to distribution, function, form, and meaning.

By reference to distribution these structures are either premodifiers or postmodifiers, depending whether they precede or follow the noun or noun phrase they modify.

By reference to function they are restrictive or non-restrictive. A restrictive modifier limits the reference of the noun or NP it modifies; a non-restictive modifier provides additional, but not essential information about the modified phrase.

These modification structures, parts of speech, and syntactical units can also be classified by reference to other formal characteristics (typical suffixal elements), as well as semantic properties as follows:

Table VI. Modifiers of noun phrases.

	English	Hungarian	English	Hungarian
	Premodifier		Postmodifier	
Adjective — *descriptive*	+	+	+	—
limiting	+	+	+	—
Noun — adjunctive	+	+	+	—
genitive	+	+	—	—
Verbal — participle — present	+	+	+	—
past	+	+	+	—
infinitive	—	—	+	—
Adverb	—	—	+	+
Prepositional phrase	—	—	+	—
Adjective clause	—	—	+	+

1.41 *Adjectives.*
1.411 *Descriptive adjectives.*

A descriptive adjective denotes a quality of the NP it modifies. It is restrictive in the sense that it limits the amount or number of items having the given quality and separates them from others without the given quality. But its presence generally does not influence the use of the articles except in the superlative degree (2.21).

items referred to by the NP

boys/fiúk

the most handsome boys/ a legjobbképű fiúk

items having the quality denoted by the adjective

handsome boys/jóképű fiúk

An adjective in English modifying a noun can be compared inflectionally with *-er, -est,* or analytically with *more* and *most* where the selection is often a function of the length of the adjective. However, in Hungarian there is only one mechanism; i.e., the comparative degree is indicated by the suffix *-bb,* which is combined in the superlative with the prefix *leg-*.

the { most beautiful / prettiest } woman

a { legszebb / legcsinosabb } nő

In both English and Hungarian the descriptive adjectives precede the NP they modify, although there are exceptions in English in the case of some structures borrowed from French, and certain appositives, forming a closed group; e.g., *Postmaster General, poet laureate, Charles the Great, Attorney General, Secretary General.*

1.412 *Limiting adjectives.*

Since most of the limiting adjectives have already been classified and analyzed in relation to the articles (1.11) only one group need be dealt with here: the *ordinals.* Ordinals, (ordinal numbers) as well as English *next* and *last* with their Hungarian equivalents indicate order and succession, and as such they identify items. Of all the determiner-like words, ordinals most nearly approach descriptive adjectives both grammatically and semantically.

In both English and Hungarian ordinals are premodifiers:

I caught sight of the *first* car turning at the corner.
Megpillantottam az *első* kocsit, amelyik befordult a sarkon.

They fell in love at *first* sight.
Első pillantásra egymásba szerettek.

During the *Second* World War millions of people died.
A *második* világháború alatt emberek milliói pusztultak el.

Next year John wants to go to Sweden.
A *jövő* évben János Svédországba szeretne/akar menni.

However, in English there are certain cases when the ordinals are post-positioned, but their number is limited:

James I (James the First) = *Első Jakab* or
Chapter II. (It stands for a postpositional cardinal number or prepositional ordinal number in English) *second chapter* or *chapter two* = *második fejezet* or *kettes fejezet.*

1.42 *Nouns.*
1.421 *Adjunctive nouns.*

Nouns in English can often modify other nouns without changing their forms (including taking suffixes). In Hungarian this phenomenon is not so common. When a noun modifies another noun, their relation is generally so close that they form a compound word.

a *stone* wall
egy *kő*fal

space flight
*űr*repülés

In contrasting English and Hungarian, we commonly observed that while an adjunctive noun is used as a modifier in English, the Hungarian modifying noun must be adjectivized by suffixes, which can stand separately or form a compound with the modified noun (for examples of the latter case, see above):

a *flower* garden
egy *virágos* kert

a *garden* flower
egy *kerti* virág

a *university* student
egy *egyetemi* hallgató

1.422 *Possessive relational phrases.*[1]

In both English and Hungarian a possessive construction contains a minimum of two nouns: the grammatical possessor (also called possessive attribute or noun possessor), and the grammatical possession as the head.[2]

1 The following discussion is indebted to H. Madarász (1968).
2 Only those structures are dealt with in which the grammatical possession is the head, because only these are relevant to the problem of article selection.

The possessive attribute makes the meaning of the possession more complete by naming the possessor or possessors.

Depending on whether the grammatical possessor also becomes the possession of another posessor of higher grammatical order or not, two kinds of phrases are distinguished: simple and complex:

the first pages of the book
a könyv első lapjai

the first pages of John's book
János könyvének az első lapjai

Simple possessive relational phrases. In English there are two ways of forming possessional relational phrases: either by attaching the suffix *'s* /s, z, ɪz/ to the possessor (premodifier), or by applying the prepositional phrase with *of* /ɔv, əv, v/ (postmodifier). In neither case do the grammatical possessions receive suffixation:

the girl*'s* dress
the leg *of* the chair

In Hungarian, on the other hand, the idea of possession is carried by a set of possessive suffixes attached to the grammatical possession. The grammatical possessor (always used as a premodifier) simply defines the grammatical possession more specifically. It usually has no suffixation, although in certain cases (also: 2.25) in not only may but must have the dative suffix *-nak/-nek* attached to it:

a lány ruhá*ja*
a lány*nak* a ruhá*ja*
(the dress of the girl)

a szék lá*ba*
a szék*nek* a lá*ba*.
(the leg of a chair)

The word order of these phrases also shows differences. In English, although two forms are utilized, the word order is firmly fixed. In the case of the inflected genitive the possessor stands in first position, as premodifier; in the case of the prepositional phrase with *of* it stands in second position, as postmodifier. These sequences cannot be changed:

The grandmother*'s* armchair
(premod.) (head)

the leg *of* the armchair
(head) (postmod.)

The only case when the inflected genitive denoting persons follows the headword is when the genitive is the main element of a prepositional phrase modifying a preceding noun:

An old friend *of* the boy*'s* came to see him.
(A fiú egy régi barátja jött el őt meglátogatni.)

It was no fault *of* the driver*'s*.
(Ez nem a vezető hibája volt.)

In Hungarian, on the other hand, word order is more flexible. This flexibility is made possible by the utilization of the dative suffix attached to the grammatical possessor. Nevertheless, even in Hungarian the sequence possessor-possession is considered basic despite the many variations permitted by the language (depending on the context):

János lakás*a*
János*nak* a lakás*a*
A lakás*a* János*nak*
(John*'s* apartment/flat)

A szoba ajtaj*a*
A szobán*ak* az ajtaj*a*
Az ajtaj*a* a szobán*ak*
(The door *of* the room)

Finally, there is a difference in the use of the forms. In English the inflected form is most frequently used in connection with persons [+Animate, +Human], and the prepositional phrase with inanimate objects [-Animate]. However, the inflectional genitive can also be used with animals [+Animate, -Human], politically formed geographical units, a few unique objects [-Animate], and in everyday speech with nouns denoting time [+Temporal]. In Hungarian, on the other hand, there is no such restriction. The forms used are identical:

N – [-Common, +Animate, +Human]
John*'s* work is good.
János munkája jó.

N – [+Common, +Count, +Animate, +Human, -Plural]
The girl*'s* dress is beautiful.
A lány ruhája szép.

N – [+Common, + Count, +Animate, +Human, +Plural]
The boys'_ hats are new.
A fiúk kalapja új.

N – [+Common, +Count, +Animate, -Human, -Plural]
A dog*'s* barking woke me up at night.
Egy kutya ugatása ébresztett fel az éjjel.

N – [-Common, -Animate]
England*'s* Prime Minister delivered a speech in Parliament yesterday.
Anglia miniszterelnöke beszédet tartott a Parlamentben tegnap.

N – [+Common, +Count, -Animate, -Plural, +Temporal]
You never let me have a moment*'s* rest.
Soha nem hagysz nekem egy pillanatnyi nyugtot sem.

In English nouns denoting inanimate objects (cases not mentioned above) can be used in the genitive only in certain phrases, idiomatic expressions with a special meaning where the nouns cannot combine freely with each other:

He was at a stone*'s* throw from the water's edge.
Egy kőhajításnyira volt a víz szélétől.

According to Zandvoort (1962:107) the combinations of an inflected genitive plus its head fall into two groups, whether the noun in the genitive refers to „a particular person or thing" or denotes „the class or kind to which the person or thing denoted belongs." The first group is called the *specifying* genitive:

His grandfather*'s* picture hangs on the wall.
A nagyapja képe a falon lóg.

The boy*'s* hat is on the table.
A fiú kalap*ja* az asztalon van.

These people*'s* work is useless.
Ezek*nek* az emberek*nek* a munká*ja* semmit sem ér.

The second group is called the *classifying* genitive:

There is a bird*'s* nest hidden in the branches of that tree.
Egy madárfészek bújik meg annak a fának az ágai között.

A doctor*'s* degree is difficult to obtain in the field of mathematics.
Nehéz doktori címet szerezni matematikából.

His doctor*'s* degree is invalid in France.
Az orvosi diplomája érvénytelen Franciaországban.

Semantically as well ás formally, structures with classifying genitive are more closely integrated than those with specifying genitive (also 2.24). Since in English classifying genitives are usually inseparable from their head-words, there is not, as a rule, a possibility of replacing them with the prepositional phrase with *of*.

In Hungarian the specifying genitive is expressed with the help of possessive suffixes attached to the grammatical possession, while the classifying genitive appears in the form of an adjectivized noun or as an adjunctive noun, often in compound with the noun head.

Specifying genitive in English – possessive suffix in Hungarian:

Mary*'s* picture is always in his pocket.
Mária képe mindig a zsebében van.

Classifying genitive in English – N_1 = adjectivized noun: N_2 = adjunctive noun in Hungarian:

A woman*'s* smile can often soften a man*'s* heart.
Egy *női*$_{N_1}$ mosoly gyakran meglágyít egy *férfi*$_{N_2}$ szívet.

Classifying genitive in English – compound word in Hungarian:

A bird*'s* nest fell out of the tree.
Egy *madárfészek* leesett a fáról.

The examples above should make clear the difference between the two types of genitive. The specifying genitive expresses a real possessor-possession relationship,[1] while the classifying genitive denotes a characteristic feature of the second element in the phrase (similar to a descriptive adjective or noun used as a premodifier). However, in English if genitive phrases are examined separately, there is a possibility of ambiguity mainly in the written language as to whether the genitive in question is classifying or specifying. For example where *a doctor's degree* specifies contrast with *a bachelor's degree,* it is a classifying genitive; on the other hand, when the same meaning can be expressed by the prepositional genitive phrase *the degree of a doctor,* it is a specifying genitive. In the first instance it is an answer to the implied question *"What kind of degree does he have? ";* in the second, to the question *"Whose degree is it? "* However, in a wider context or in the spoken language, the ambiguity is normally resolved:

George was a physician. He went to the U. S., but his foreign medical doctor*'s* degree was not accepted there.

1 Whether the possessive relational phrase denotes objective or subjective relations is not of interest here; therefore, details concerning these relations are omitted: e.g., *the child's cry* – the child is crying – *a gyermek sírása; the writing of the letter* – the letter is written – *a levél írása.* Phrasal possessive structures are also interesting from the point of view of genitive relations in both languages, but the relation is not relevant to the aims of this study either; e.g., *The man I was talking about the other day's coat was left at my apartment* – mainly in the spoken language (the example is from private communication).

György orvos volt, aki az Egyesült Államokba ment. De a külföldi orvos*i* diplomáját nem fogadták el.
(classifying genitive)

John was a physician, his brother was a lawyer.
The doctor's degree was from Yale, and the lawyer's degree was from Harvard.
(Lit.) János orvos volt, a bátyja pedig ügyvéd.
Az orvos diplomá*ja* Yale-ből, az ügyvéd diplomá*ja* pedig Harvardról való.
(specifying genitive)

In Hungarian in a simple possessive relational phrase the dative suffix *-nak/-nek* is not needed if the grammatical possessor precedes the grammatical possession and the phrase expresses only possessive relation. Nevertheless, it may and does appear in colloquial speech. Thus both forms are considered standard:

A lány ruhá*ja* új.
A lány*nak* a ruhá*ja* új.
(The girl's dress is new.)

A kocsi motor*ja* rossz.
A kocsi*nak* a motor*ja* rossz.
(The motor of the car is out of order.)

As Simonyi (1913:158–163) points out, the semantic relation is much tighter when the grammatical possessor occurs without the dative suffix. The grammatical possession almost forms a compound unit with the grammatical possessor, having only one stress and belonging to the same intonation unit. According to Simonyi, the dative suffix is used when both elements have equal importance in the phrase, where both elements are stressed individually and are placed in different intonation units:

A szomszédom*nak* // a disznai pusztultak el.
(My neighbor's pigs have died.)

Olcsó hús*nak* // híg a leve.
([Lit] – Cheap meat makes watery soup;
i.e., What is too cheap is not worth its price.)

In Hungarian in simple possessive relational phrases the dative suffix *-nak/-nek* is compulsory in the following cases:

(a) Inverted word order:

A lakás*a* Miklós*nak* is szép és modern.
(Nicholas's apartment is also beautiful and modern.)

(b) Grammatical possessor and possession are separated by other parts of the sentence:

Egy orvos*nak* nem könnyű az élet*e*.
(A doctor's life is not easy.)

(c) Interrogative and demonstrative pronouns receive the suffix:

K*inek* a könyv*e* van az asztalon?
(Whose book is on the table?)

Ennek az író*nak* a műv*eit* szeretem.
(I like the works of this writer.)

Complex possessive relational phrases. In both languages the grammatical possessor can become the possession of a unit of a higher grammatical order: i.e., the primary possessor in the sentence. In this case we are dealing with a so-called double possessive phrase. This process, however, may continue, and the primary possessor can become the possession of another, still higher order primary possessor while continuing in its original capacity as possessor in its relationship with the basic possession in the sentence:

The window *of* a building.
The window *of* a building *of* a new housing estate.
The window *of* a building *of* one *of* the new housing estates *of* Budapest.
Egy épület ablak*a*.
Egy új lakótelep egy épület*ének* az ablak*a*.
Budapest egyik új lakótelep*e* egy épület*ének* az ablak*a*.

In English both inflexional and prepositional possessive phrases can be used in such a chain phrase of indefinite length; the two types can even be mixed in the same phrase. In Hungarian each grammatical possessor precedes its grammatical possession, and the last element in the chain of grammatical possessors takes the dative suffix *-nak/-nek:*

The dog *of* the friend *of* the teacher *of* the son *of* the landlords.
or: The landlord*'s* son*'s* teacher*'s* friend*'s* dog.
or: The dog *of* the friend *of* the landlord*'s* son*'s* teacher.
A háziúr fi*a* tanár*a* barátnő*jének* a kutyá*ja*.

1.43 *Verbals.*

Verbals are those verb forms which cannot express all verb categories – such as person, time, number, manner of conception, etc.

Verbals in English: *participles, infinitives, gerunds.*
Verbals in Hungarian: *participles, infinitives.*

1.431 *Participles.*

„A participle often has full verbal force and at the same time performs the function and has the position of an adjective" (Curme, 1935:210). The English verb has two participles:

(a) the present participle (ending in *-ing*).
(b) the past participle (ending usually in *-ed, -d, -t, -en,* or *-n*).

The Hungarian verb also has two participles (melléknévi igenév):

(a) the present participle (ending in *-ó/ő*).
(b) the past participle (ending in *-t, -tt*).

When participles function as adjectives in both languages, they are generally placed before the head noun they modify:

The *sleeping* child is in the room.
Az *alvó* gyermek a szobában van.

Participial phrases are generally abridgements of clauses. When a participle has its own modifier (or functions as predicate in a subordinate clause), it is usually placed after the noun in English, while in Hungarian either an attributive clause or a premodifying phrase is used:

I saw a little child *sleeping* in the cradle.
Láttam egy bölcsőben *alvó* kisgyermeket.

The university students have invited a young writer, *well-known* all over the word.
Az egyetemi hallgatók meghívtak egy világszerte *ismert*, fiatal írót.
Az egyetemi hallgatók meghívtak egy fiatal írót, akit jól ismernek szerte a világon.

1.432 *Infinitives.*

The infinitive is often described as a form of verb which is generally not marked for person or number. In English it is used with or without *to;* it can be marked for aspect and it may be active or passive in form. In Hungarian it ends with the suffix *-ni* and can take personal endings.

In English an infinitive with *to* is used as a premodifier only as a part of a modifying group, while its use as a postmodifier is fairly frequent, mainly modifying nouns or NPs functioning as predicates or objects less frequently as subjects.

In Hungarian, on the other hand, the use of the infinitive as a modifier is rare; generally a postmodifying clause is used instead of an infinitive, rarely a premodifying participle:

in time *to come*
az *eljövendő* időben

He was the first *to come* and the last *to leave*.
Az első volt, *aki jött*, és az utolso, *aki elment*.

He is the man *to do* it.
Ő az *erre való/erre termett* ember.

Mary always knows the proper thing *to say*.
Mária mindig tudja, *hogy mit kell mondani*.

This is a question *to be considered* later.
Ezt a kérdést később *kell meggondolni*.

1.44 *Attributive (relative) clauses.*

Two kinds of relative clauses accompanying nouns or NPs as post-modifiers must be distinguished: *restrictive* and *non-restrictive* (also known as „defining" and „non-defining").

In English relative clauses are introduced by:

who /_ N [+Animate, +Human], and its forms,
which /_ N [±Animate, -Human],
that /_ N [±Animate, ±Human] or

zero relatives.[1]

That can introduce only restrictive clauses; *who* and *which* can introduce both types of clauses.

In Hungarian, the basic types of relative clauses are introduced by:

aki /_ N, [+Animate, +Human],
amely /_ N, [±Animate, -Human], and in colloquial style
ami and their forms.

There is no special equivalent for English *that* in Hungarian; i.e., *aki* is used with persons, N [+Animate, +Human], and *amely* with animals and inanimate objects; N [+Animate, -Human] and N [-Animate]:

Students *who* do not prepare well will fail the examination.
(Azok) a diákok, *akik* nem készülnek jól fel a vizsgára, meg fognak bukni.
(restrictive relative clause)

1 In addition to these there are clauses with *when, where, as, but,* and their numerous equivalents in Hungarian, but these are not considered in this paper.

John, *who* is a good friend of mine, is a doctor.
János, *aki* jó barátom, orvos.
(non-restrictive relative clause)

Among the formal distinctions in both English and Hungarian which mark a clause as restrictive or non-restrictive in its meaning are:

(1) the nature of the antecedent,
(2) the relative which introduces the clause,
(3) contrast in accompanying intonation patterns.

In English, in the written language, punctuation marks serve as distinguishing markers; in Hungarian both in the written and spoken languages, very frequently a demonstrative is used in the main clause.

Igy egy forma *olyan* ismétlődő hangzó elem, amelynek jelentése van.
Thus a form is a recurrent vocal feature which has meaning. (LB: 291/155)

Megfogta a lánynak *azt* a kezét, amelyen a gyűrű volt.
He took the girl's hand with the ring on.

1.5 *Classification of noun phrases.*

The study aims at the analysis of the articles in their environments – mainly units smaller than sentences – although it also touches upon articles in units larger than a single sentence within a discourse (in the case of anaphoric reference). One of the factors influencing the use of the articles is the syntactic function, and sometimes the position, of the NP in which the article occurs. The syntactic functions that NPs can fulfill are: (1) subject, (2) object complement, (3) subject complement, (4) apposition, (5) adverbial, and (6) isolation. The occurrence of the article in an NP in both languages is more common in subject function than in certain other syntactic functions, as it will be shown. Because of the limited size of this study only the first three functions will be analyzed.

PART TWO

In Part One the theoretical framework was given for the contrastive analysis of article usage. In Part Two the use of the article is examined in both English and Hungarian; rules governing article usage are followed by examples. Based on the contrastive analysis, predictions are given which are followed by validation (0.1).

In Chapter II NPs are examined in their regular subject function. Special attention is given to the English locative structure with *there is/are* (which has no overt counterpart in Hungarian) as well as to non-individualized countable nouns in Hungarian.

In Chapter III English NPs are examined in their object function as direct, indirect, and prepositional objects, as well as double and complex objects. The differences between these structures and their Hungarian equivalents is also described.

In Chapter IV NPs are analyzed as subject complements or, using the traditional term, in predicative function.

Corpus of errors. Different sources were used for collecting examples of errors for validating the predictions.

(a) Various types of test papers of HLE from two types of classes in a secondary school of Budapest: (i) classes of seventeen- and eighteen-year-old girls who had been attending English lessons five or six times a week for three or four years; (ii) classes of fourteen- to eighteen-year-old girls and boys from the same school who had been attending English lessons two or three times a week for one to four years.

(b) Composition test papers of students from different secondary schools written for the annual national competition in Hungary.[1]

(c) Conversations and other utterances (language contests) of students in secondary-school special English sections, and of adults studying English in advanced courses.

1 Data from the competition papers have been collected by a group of undergraduates of the English Department, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. Therefore I thank Zsuzsanna Béres, Nándor Papp, and Tamás Váradi for making it possible to use their data.

(d) Errors, both oral and written, committed by English speakers studying Hungarian in Hungary. Since few informants were available, the data are limited.

The ratio of errors in the misuse of articles is very high compared with other types of errors, such as the use of prepositions, tenses, sequence of tenses, etc. In all of the papers examined (written by Hungarians) a total of 3140 errors were committed, 600 (19.1 %) concerned the misuse of articles. The different misuses of articles – omission, superfluous use, substitution of one article for another – are considered in detail.

It should be pointed out that the predictions formulated from these misuses are mainly based on the base language (mother tongue), rarely on the approximative system.[1] Unfortunately, because of limited data, the validation of this study indicates only the number of occurrences of deviant usage and does not refer to the proportion of correct occurrences. Only a Hungarian-English (HE) error-corpus was at our disposal, therefore the English-Hungarian (EH) predictions are not validated.

1 The approximative system is the intermediate language system, combining elements derived from the learner's base and target languages together with others intrinsic to the system itself which a language learner employs in attempting to communicate in the target language (Nemser – personal communication).

CHAPTER II

2.0 *Articles with nominal subjects.*

This section of the study examines the use of the articles in English and Hungarian with uncountable, countable, and in some cases with proper nouns, both with and without pre- and postmodifiers. The relations between articles in their distributions with other modifiers are investigated. Similarities and differences of usage in the two languages are identified, and hypotheses are offered concerning learning difficulties in both directions and associated interference patterns.

2.1 *Unmodified constructions.*

2.11 *Uncountable nouns.*

Uncountable nouns [+N,-Count] in both English and Hungarian have only one form, generally called „singular".

Uncountable nouns – as stated in Chapter I – cannot be preceded by an indefinite article in either of the two languages, but they can be preceded by the zero and the definite articles.

In both languages when an uncountable noun functioning as subject denotes a material object, it is preceded by the zero article.

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ N [-Count, +Concr]

There is ϕ water in the glass.
ϕ Víz van a pohárban.
A pohárban ϕ víz van.

ϕ Blood runs in his veins.
ϕ Vér folyik az ereiben.
Az ereiben ϕ vér folyik.

ϕ Snow covers the streets.
ϕ Hó borítja az utcákat.
Az utcákat ϕ hó borítja.

Prediction: Since in both languages the zero article is used with uncountable nouns denoting material objects, both HLE and ELH will produce correct sentences.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed no examples of deviant usage, which supports the validity of our prediction.

When an uncountable noun functioning as subject refers to an abstract notion, it co-occurs with the zero article in English but generally with the definite article in Hungarian. In colloquial Hungarian sometimes it may occur with the zero article.

$Art_E \rightarrow \phi$
/ – N [-Count, -Concr]
$Art_H \rightarrow def/\phi$

ϕ Time flies.
Az idő repül.

ϕ Time is money.
Az idő pénz.

There is ϕ time for everything.
Van ϕ idő mindenre.

ϕ Semantics is „language" in its broadest, most inclusive aspect.
A jelentéstan a legtágabb értelemben vett nyelvvel azonos.
(Pei: 145/118)

ϕ Education has been in a state of permanent change particularly in recent years.
A nevelés az állandó változás korát éli. (ICE: 9/3)

Prediction: Since the use of the definite article is more frequent in Hungarian, HLE will probably use the definite article with uncountable nouns referring to abstract notions, and form such sentences as:

- *The* time is money.
- *The* life is hard.

ELH, on the other hand, will omit the definite article and produce sentences like:

- _ Idő pénz.
- _ Élet nehéz.

Validation: Our corpus of HE errors contained fifty examples of deviant usage which supports the prediction. From the data of the error analysis it seems that this type of error does not depend on the syntactic function of the NP (e. g., forty-two errors occur in modifiers, etc.).

When an uncountable noun – in subject position referring to either a material or abstract notion – is used in a generic sense, it is accompanied by the zero article in English, but always by the definite article in Hungarian.

$Art_E - \phi$

/ _ N [-Count, ±Concr, +Total, -Specific]

Art_H – def

ϕ Life is hard.
Az élet nehéz.
Nehéz *az* élet.

ϕ Iron is a metal.
A vas fém.

Prediction: HLE may use the definite article with uncountable nouns used in the generic sense and form such sentences as:

+ *The* iron is a metal.
+ *The* life is hard.

ELH, on the other hand, will omit the definite article and produce sentences like:

+ _ Vas fém.
+ _ Élet nehéz.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained twelve examples of deviant usage supporting the prediction.

An English uncountable noun can be preceded by the article *some* /sm/, which does not always have an overt equivalent in Hungarian; when it does, this equivalent is the compound partitive expression: *egy kis*.

(a) And there's ϕ cheese, and biscuits, and *some* tinned fruit.
Meg aztán van ϕ sajt, száraz sütemény, meg *egy kis* konzerv gyümölcs.
(AC: 91/94)

(b) There was *(some)* tea and cake on the table.
Egy kis tea és sütemény volt az asztalon.
or: ϕ Tea és ϕ sütemény volt az asztalon.

In these cases *some* adds a partitive sense to the meaning of the NP in contrast with the zero article. However, in some cases the two English forms are in free variation. In Hungarian there are two forms equivalent to the English *some: egy kis* and the zero article, as can be seen in the examples above.

Prediction: When the quantitative *egy kis* is present in a Hungarian sentence, HLE will use *some* correctly, but where the zero article is used in Hungarian with an uncountable noun, they will perhaps omit *some* in the English phrase, and produce sentences like:

* There is _ water in the glass.
Instead of: *some* water.

On the other hand, in cases where *some* is used in an English sentence, ELH will use the overt equivalent in Hungarian, whether it is necessary or not, and form sentences like:

* *Egy kis* whisky és *egy kis* bor volt az asztalon.
Instead of: ϕ whisky és ϕ bor volt az asztalon.

Validation: Our error-corpus of HE did not reveal any example of deviant usage to support our prediction.

Another difference can be found when a noun, though having the same meaning in the two languages, is uncountable in one of the languages and countable in the other:

furniture [-Count]	– bútor [+Count]
information [-Count]	– információ [+Count]
advice [-Count]	– tanács [+Count]
a grape [+Count]	– szőlőszem [-Count]

ϕ Information is always available at the Travellers' Aid Society.
A Travellers' Aid Societynél mindig szerezhetők/ kaphatók ϕ információ*k*.

ϕ Furniture costs more in big cities.
A bútor*ok* több*e* kerülnek/ drágábbak a nagy városokban.

Prediction: There will be a special difficulty in acquiring the correct use of these nouns, since learners of the target language (TL) will use the nouns as countable or uncountable depending on the usage in the base language (BL), unless special emphasis is given to the difference in the acquisitional process.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed two examples of deviant usage of the word *information*, one occurrence of the word *coal*, and one of the word *soap* with the indefinite article instead of the zero article.

Reference has been made (1.241) to the same word form denoting items both countable and uncountable:

iron – an iron (vas–vasaló)
üveg – egy üveg (glass – a bottle)

This often poses problems in language acquisition in both directions.

Prediction: The type of error often depends on the sequence in which TL elements are learned; i.e., on whether the learner of either language will first acquire the noun denoting a countable item, or that of an uncountable. In the former case he will probably use an indefinite article with uncountables; in the latter case he will not dare to use an indefinite article when the noun does denote a countable item.

HLE will probably form sentences like:

(a) + *A* glass is the best surface to write on.
instead of: ϕ Glass...
on the basis: There is *a* glass on the table.

(b) + There was – time when I had time to read.
instead of: There was *a* time...
on the basis of: ϕ Time flies.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained two examples of deviant usage supporting the prediction.

2.12 *Countable nouns.*

2.121 *Singular countable nouns.*

Countable nouns by definition occur in both singular and plural forms. However, article usage with the singular form differs in the two languages where no other determiner is present. In English this form must occur with either the definite or indefinite article, while in Hungarian it may occur with the zero article as well.[1] The difference has been related to the fact that the opposition between *individualized* and *non-individualized* meaning is not overtly marked in English, while in Hungarian nouns express it with the definite and indefinite articles, or with the zero article.[2]

1 See definition in 1.3.
2 Exceptions are noted in 2.12.

Table VII. The occurrence of article with singular countable nouns in English and Hungarian.

The book is blue. [+N, +Count, -Plural, +Def]	*A* könyv kék. [+N, +Count, -Plural, +Def]
There is *a* book on the table. [+N, +Count, -Plural, -Def]	Az asztalon *egy* könyv van. [+N, +Count, -Plural, -Def]
	ϕ Könyv van az asztalon. [+N, +Count, -Plural, -Indiv]

The NP is individualized, actualized, and identified since the object referred to is known both by the speaker and the hearer. (There is a concrete, definite book on the table.)

A könyv az asztalon van.
The book is on the table.

The NP is individualized, but not actualized, and identified. (A book can be found on the table, nothing more is known about it.)

Az asztalon *egy* könyv van.
There is *a* book on the table.

The Hungarian sentence below does not indicate the quantity of the books; it expresses only that there is a book on the table and not something else. This cannot be expressed in English through the use of the articles. For this purpose suprasegmental elements are used, and so stress, for instance, can express contrast:

ϕ Könyv van az asztalon.
(Lit.: _ Book is on the table.)

To cover roughly the same meaning in English, two different structures can be used:

There is *a* book on the table.
There are ϕ book*s* on the table.

Prediction: HLE will probably use the zero article with singular countable nouns and form sentences like:

+ There is _ book on the table.
+ _ Flower grows in the garden in the spring.
+ _ Mouse is in the room.

on the basis of the Hungarian sentences:

ϕ Könyv van az asztalon.
ϕ Virág nő a kertben tavasszal.
ϕ Egér van a szobában.

ELH, on the other hand, will use an article, probably the indefinite article when in Hungarian the zero article is used and will not note any difference between nouns with „individual" and „non-individual" features, and will form sentences like:

(+)*Egy* könyv van az asztalon. (for both cases)

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed no example of deviant usage to support the prediction.

The indefinite article can be used in both languages with a singular noun, and its use does not depend on the semantic features of the noun, whether it denotes an animate or inanimate, a human or non-human entity.

Table VIII. Locative sentences in English and Hungarian.

There is	a boy a dog a table	in the room.	Egy fiú Egy kutya Egy asztal	van	a szobában.

However, a difference between English and Hungarian which can be seen from the examples above, is the use of the *empty* -- or as Jespersen calls it the *existential* – *there* [ðə] in English, which is always placed before the real subject of the sentence, and has become a fixed formula to indicate the existence of something but gives no further information about the subject (also 2.111 and 2.13):

There is a book on the table.

There is cannot be literally translated into Hungarian. There is no equivalent Hungarian structure for it.

In English the structure *there is*[1] cannot be used with a noun accompanied by the definite article, because the item is not actualized and identified.

1 The empty *there* in English can occur with *to be* and its different tenses and aspects, and with the verbs *appear* and *come*.

Prediction: Since this structure does not exist in Hungarian,[1] HLE will often make mistakes of two kinds:

(a) They will not use the structure of *there is* in sentences expressing the existence of something or somebody, and form sentences like:

\+ _ A book is here.
instead of: *There* is *a* book here.
on the basis: Itt *egy* könyv van.

(b) At a higher level of language acquisition, when the HLE have already acquired the form, they may also use it with a subject occurring with a definite article as a determiner:

\+ There is *the* book here.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained fifteen examples supporting prediction a, and two examples supporting prediction b.

In section 2.121 we showed the occurrence of singular countable nouns in English with the definite and indefinite articles. However, there are cases when the zero article also can be used with singular nouns in English. But these cases are limited in number and they form a separate group in everyday speech. As Jespersen (1949 VII 12. 84.–464.) showed, this is the case with enumerations and pairs of words forming an antithesis. The zero article generally occurs instead of the definite article:

ϕ Ship and ϕ man sank under the waves.
ϕ Hajó és ϕ ember a hullámokba süllyedt.

ϕ Brother and ϕ sister were at breakfast.
ϕ Fivér and ϕ nővér reggeliztek.

The zero article can be used in English sentences before repetitions of the same noun found as subject, object, or predicate of the same sentence:[2]

ϕ Dog succeeded ϕ dog, and ϕ apartment succeeded ϕ apartment.
ϕ Kutya ϕ kutyát követett, és ϕ lakás követett ϕ lakást.

... and as ϕ marquess succeeded ϕ marquess and
ϕ prince ϕ prince, an expression of ever increasing profounder imbecility made itself apparent.

... és ahogy ϕ márkinő követett ϕ márkinőt és ϕ herceg ϕ herceget egy egyre mélyrehatóbb imbecilitás kifejezése vált nyilvánvalóvá.

1 The use of *there is* does not cause any difficulty for French learners of English who have the same structure in their own language: *Il y a un livre sur la table.*
2 Examples are taken from Jespersen, op. cit., p. 467.

Another special use of the zero article in English can be found in stage directions and newspaper headlines which both use elliptical sentences:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ N [+Count, -Plural]

ϕ Crash against front door.
ϕ Robaj a bejárat felől. (AE: 11/133)

ϕ Knock on the door.
ϕ Kopogás az ajtón. (stage direction)

The zero article was used in the examples above both in English and Hungarian, but it is probably more common to use the zero article in English than in Hungarian in these cases, as our data contain several examples of the use of the definite article in Hungarian in contrast to the zero article in English:

$Art_E \rightarrow \phi$
$Art_H \rightarrow$ def / _ N [+Count, -Plural, +Def]

ϕ Set in darkness.
A szín sötét. (AE: 11/133) (stage direction)

ϕ Front door opens.
Nyílik *az* ajtó. (AE: 11/133) (stage direction)

ϕ Thief escapes from prison.
A tolvaj megszökött a börtönből. (newspaper headline)

2.122 *Plural countable nouns.*

It is evident from the nature of the indefinite article *a* or *egy* that is cannot be used with plural nouns. In cases where a singular noun with the indefinite article is put into the plural, generally, there are two possiblities in English: one is to use *some* /sm/ as the plural equivalent of the indefinite article, the other to use the zero article. In Hungarian, on the other hand, the zero article is usually used in such cases:

(a) There is *a* rock here.
Egy szikla van itt.

(b) There are *some* rocks here.
i. *Néhány* szikla van itt.
ii. Itt ϕ sziklák vannak.

There are ϕ rocks here.
ϕ Sziklák vannak itt.

While the indefinite article in the English example a cannot be omitted, *some* may be omitted from example b to make the plural noun in the sentence more formal, impersonal as in example c. In Hungarian there is a greater difference between sentence bi and bii and c. While in sentences bii and c only the existence of certain items is expressed, in sentence bi the quantity is much more emphasized by the quantifier *néhány* in Hungarian than it is by the article-like word *some* in English. Hungarian *néhány* seems to be rather the plural form of the numeral *egy* (one) than that of the article *egy* (a).

Prediction: When the quantifier *néhány* is present in a Hungarian sentence, HLE will use *some* correctly, but where the zero article is used in Hungarian with plural countable nouns, the learners will perhaps omit *some* in the English phrase and produce sentences only with the zero article:

* There are _ rocks here.
instead of: *some* rocks

On the other hand, in cases where *some* is used in English, ELH will use the overt equivalent in Hungarian, whether it is necessary or not, and form sentences like:

* *Néhány* könyv van itt.
instead of: ϕ Könyvek vannak itt.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE did not reveal any example of deviant usage to support the prediction.

Several examples in our data show a characteristic and regular difference in the use of the articles in English and Hungarian in the case of a plural noun functioning as subject with generic meaning. The noun does not refer to any concrete person or object but denotes them in their totality. In this case the zero article is used in English and the definite article in Hungarian.

$Art_E \rightarrow \phi$
/ _ N [+Count, +Plural, -Specific]
$Art_H \rightarrow$ def

ϕ Lights are switched on.
Kigyulladnak *a* fények. (A: 11/133)
but: ϕ Fények gyulladnak ki.

... ϕ things were going wrong in Egypt.
... rosszul mentek *a* dolgok Egyiptomban. (B: 5/6)

ϕ Sounds, ϕ words ... are the tools of language.
A hangok, *a* szavak, ... a nyelv eszközei. (Pei: 118/145)

Prediction: HLE will probably form sentences in which the nouns will be preceded by the definite article, in accordance with the usage in Hungarian:

... + *The* things were going wrong in Egypt.

ELH, on the other hand, will use the zero article in this generic sense and produce sentences like:

+ _ Hangok, _ szavak... a nyelv eszközei.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained twenty examples of deviant usage, plus another eighteen for modified structures (2.213 c).

Another difference between article usage in English and Hungarian was revealed by the data when the noun in question is used with the definite article in both languages. But while in English the plural form of the noun is used, in Hungarian only the singular form can be used to cover the same meaning.

$Art_E \rightarrow$ def/ _ N [+Count, +Plural]
$Art_H \rightarrow$ def/ _ N [+Count, -Plural]

(a) *The* black spade*s* carry the day.
A pikk viszi a pálmát. (JA: 9/67)

(b) ... in the rain when *the* pavement*s* shone ...
... amikor *a* járda csillog. (SM: 189/142)

(c) ... the stone and *the* brick*s* ache dully.
... a kő és *a* tégla tompán sajog. (CI: 184/169)

(d) ... where *the* lamp*s* burn all day.
... ahol egész nap ég *a* lámpa. (CI: 7/2)

The nouns in the above examples are generally considered as countable in both languages and therefore they can be expected to appear in the plural. However, these nouns have a special meaning in the discourse; they impart some abstract or material connotation which probably explains their use in the singular in Hungarian. Quantity is irrelevant in the above cases and quantification need not be always marked in Hungarian, in contrast to English. The word *lámpa* (lamp) used in the plural gives a correct and meaningful Hungarian sentence, but does not cover the same meaning as in sentence c:

Egész nap égnek *a* lámpák a szobában/ az utcán.

In sentence d the word *lámpa* refers to light in general, or the word *tégla* (brick) in sentence c draws attention to a kind of material.

The data at our disposal have not provided enough material for a firm statement; further investigation of the problem is required.

2.2 *Modified constructions.*

So far nouns have been treated without any modifying word other than the article. Since in this study the emphasis is on the relation of the articles to nouns or noun equivalents, the different modifiers will be analyzed thoroughly from the standpoint of the usage of the articles, whether or not the addition of a modifier makes any change in the use of the article. As it has been already shown in 1.4, premodifiers and postmodifiers can be distinguished according to position. Premodifiers will be dealt with first.

2.21 *Premodifiers: descriptive adjectives.*

When an NP functioning as subject – modified by a descriptive adjective in the positive or comparative degree – is preceded by the definite, the indefinite, or the zero article, the selection of the article depends on factors other than the presence of the adjective; i.e., it depends on the features of the articles and of the nouns (1.12–1.3).

The behavior of the NPs containing a descriptive adjective with the articles is not different from that of the unmodified NPs discussed in 2.1 although in the following analysis the determiner – in our case the article – precedes and modifies the group of descriptive adjective plus noun.

DMN = Determiner + Modifier + Noun
D = Determiner → Article
Art = Article: a/an – egy; the – a/az; ϕ
M = Modifier → descriptive adjective in positive or comparative degree
N = Noun → countable (singular or plural) and uncountable (material or abstract).

2.211 *Uncountable nouns.*

(a) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ M [-Restr] + N [-Count, +Concr]

ϕ White snow covers the streets.
ϕ Fehér hó borítja az utcákat.
Az utcákat ϕ fehér hó borítja.

(b) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def/ _ M [-Restr] + N [-Count, +Concr]
He ate too much and *the* rich food made him sick.
Túl sokat evett és *a* zsíros étel beteggé tette.

(c) $Art_E \rightarrow$ indef
/ _ M [-Restr] + N [-Count, +Concr]
$Art_H \rightarrow \phi$

A sharp stinging drizzle fell.
ϕ Éles, szúrós dara hullott. (GD: 15/13) (a kind of drizzle)

(d) Narrative, NP specified independently from the adjective:
$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def/ _ M [-Restr.] + N [-Count, -Concr]
The dead cold grips the town in utter silence.
A dermesztő hideg néma csendben fojtogatta a várost. (CI: 194/169)

(e) $Art_E \rightarrow \phi$
/ _ M [-Restr] + N [-Count, -Conr]

$Art_H \rightarrow$ def
ϕ Modern art, we might say, begins with a father...
Elmondhatjuk, hogy *a* modern művészet olyan apától származik...
(HR: 12)

2.212 *Singular countable nouns.*

(a) Introductory use:
$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ indef/ _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, Plural, +Indiv, -Act]
There must be *an* international police paint...
Úgy látszik van *egy* nemzetközi rendőrségi szín... (AM: 196/382)

(b) Generic sense:
$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def / _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, -Specific]
The true linguist avoids, to the best of his ability, the know-it-all attitude...
Az igazi nyelvész semmiképpen nem tetszeleg a mindentudó pózában...
(Pei: 118/145)

(c) Distinction is made between individualized and non-individualized nouns in Hungarian:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ indef / _ M [-Restr] + N_E [+Count, -Plural, +Indiv, -Act]

$Art_H \rightarrow \phi$ N_H [+Count, -Plural, -Indiv]

A long beach stands in front of this room... .
ϕ Hosszú pad áll a falnál... . (AM: 155/381)

2.213 *Plural countable nouns.*

(a) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural, -Act]

ϕ Loud cries broke the silence of the night.
ϕ Hangos kiáltások törték meg az éjszaka csendjét. (CI: 195/170)

(b) Actualized in the narrative:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def / _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural, +Act]

The glacial valleys were alternately shadowy and white as starch in the blank glare of the full moon...
A jeges völgyek árnyékba borultak, majd akár a keményítő fehérlettek a telihold tiszta világánál. (B: 5)

(c) Generic sense:

$Art_E \rightarrow \phi$ / _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural, -Specific]

$Art_H \rightarrow$ def

ϕ Sounds, ϕ words, ϕ grammatical forms, ϕ syntactical units, ϕ constructions are the tools of language.
A hangok, a szavak, *a* nyelvtani formák, s *a* mondattani alakzatok a nyelv eszközei. (Pei: 118/145)

Modifier: a descriptive adjective in the superlative. A descriptive adjective (1.411), in both English and Hungarian, exercises some control over the selection of the articles only when it is in the superlative degree. In both languages a superlative is generally preceded by the definite article.

the shortest way, *the* prettiest woman, *the* most terrible scene
a legrövidebb út, *a* legcsinosabb nő, *a* legborzalmasabb jelenet

Superlative degree:

inE/H → Det [+Def] + M_{adj} [Superl] + N
Det → Art [+Def]
Art → *the – a/az*
M → Adj [Superl]
Adj_E → *-est/most*
Adj_H → *leg- ... -bb*
N → [+Count, ±Plural, ±Animate, ±Human]
[-Count, ±Concr.]

Intensive degree. A very high degree of quality can be expressed by *most* + adjective in English. In this case the modified structure can take the indefinite article. Formally, *most* + adjective is similar to the analytical superlative form of the adjectives, but *most* has a different function in the two cases. In the superlative form it has a grammatical function, while *most* in the second case is an intensifying adverb, which can be replaced by the adverb *very*.

In Hungarian the intensive degree is expressed by the adverbs *igen* or *nagyon* preceding the modifying adjective. The structure in Hungarian can also take the indefinite article:

A most beautiful picture is hanging in my mother's room.
Egy igen szép kép lóg az édesanyám szobájában.
A very beautiful picture is hanging in my mother's room.
Egy nagyon szép kép lóg az édesanyám szobájában.

A most handsome man and *a* most pretty woman entered the room.
Egy igen jóképű férfi és *egy* igen csinos asszony lépett be a szobába.

In case of an uncountable noun *most* can refer to a kind of material or abstract notion expressed by the noun modified, though keeping its intensifying function. The indefinite article can occur in both languages:

A most fragrant perfume is available in the department stores.
Egy igen illatos parfüm kapható az áruházakban.
A very fragrant perfume is available in the department stores.
Egy nagyon illatos parfüm kapható az áruházakban.

A most/very unpleasant surprise awaits him.
Egy igen/nagyon kellemetlen meglepetés vár rá.

A most/very different life awaits him there.
Egy egészen/teljesen más élet várja őt ott.

Intensive degree:

inE/H = Det [-Def] + M (Adv. + Adj) + N
Det → Art [-Def]
Art → *a/an – egy*
M → Adv. + Adj
Adv_E → *most/very*
Adv_H → *igen/nagyon*
Adj → positive degree
N – [+Count, ±Sing]
[-Count, ±Concr]

Prediction: Three types of errors can be predicted for HLE in the above-analyzed structures:

(1) Since the intensive degree of a certain quality is not expressed in Hungarian by a form similar to that of the superlative, it is possible that only the adverbial structure with *very* will be used by HLE if, in the acquisitional process, emphasis is not placed on this special use of *most* in English. This is an example of underusage rather than distortion.

(2) Both forms of comparison (inflectional and analytical) may be used by HLE to express intensive degree if in the acquisitional process it is not emphasized that a form similar to the analytical superlative is used with *all* the English descriptive adjectives to express the meaning of the intensive degree:

* *a* pretti*est* woman
instead of: *a most* pretty woman

(3) The special use of the superlative form *most* of the quantifier and numerical *much* and *many* which is, in general, used with the zero article in English, but always with the definite article in Hungarian may also be a source of error. Therefore, HLE will probably use the definite article, partly because of its use in the BL, partly because they will transfer what they have already acquired about the superlative in English, and form sentences like:

* *The* most young boys do not like dancing.

The following errors can be predicted for ELH:

(1 and 2) ELH, on the other hand, will probably make errors in trying to use the superlative form with the indefinite article to express intensive degree and produce structures like:

* *egy legszebb* lány
instead of: *egy igen/nagyon* szép lány

(3) In the case of the superlative of *many/much*, ELH will omit the definite article and produce such Hungarian sentences as:

\+ _ Legtöbb fiatal fiú nem szeret táncolni.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE did not reveal any examples of deviant usage for predictions 1 and 2 but it contained ten examples supporting prediction 3.

2.22 *Premodifiers: ordinals.*

Even if, according to our classification, ordinals – ordinal numbers as well as *next* and *last* and their Hungarian equivalents – belong to the group of limiting ajdectives (1.412), they approach nearest both grammatically and semantically to descriptive adjectives. In certain respects their relation to articles is similar to that of descriptive adjectives in the superlative. Therefore, they are analyzed here in combination with NPs functioning as subjects. Their semantic features exclude their combination with uncountable nouns.

As Jespersen (1949 VII 13.31–476) says:

> An ordinal together with a primary denotes something belonging to a certain place in a series, but to decide which place, it is necessary to have some knowledge of the thing in relation to the other things in the series and this, again, is sufficient for the junction to require *the*.

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow def / _ M_{ord}$ [+Restr] + N [+Count]

The first guest arrived at seven.
Az első vendég hétkor érkezett.

The third row was quite near to the stage.
A harmadik sor egész közel volt a színpadhoz.

The nineteenth century was the century of revolutions.
A tizenkilencedik század a forradalmak százada volt.

The first guests arrived at seven.
Az első/ *A* legelső vendégek hétkor érkeztek.

Last and *next* with the zero article, combined with *week, month, year, time,* and the names of the *seasons* express the sense of „immediately before this or after this" respectively. Their Hungarian equivalent *jövő* and *múlt* co-occur with the definite article:

$Art_E \rightarrow \phi$ / _ M (next, last)
/ +N [+Temporal]
$Art_H \rightarrow$ def / _ M (jövő, múlt)

ϕ Last week was very rainy.
A múlt hét nagyon esős volt.

ϕ Next week will be very busy.
A jövő hét nagyon zsúfolt lesz.

Thus ϕ next year will be a special year for me.
Igy *a* jövő év különleges év lesz számomra.

The definite article is used with *last* and *next* in English to give the sense „concluding" or „following." Their Hungarian equivalents *következő* and *utolsó* also occur with the definite article:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ def / _ M (last, next)
/ _ N [+Temporal]
$Art_H \rightarrow$ def / _ M (utolsó, következő)

We spent a month in Yugoslavia and even *the* last week was marvellous.
Egy hónapot töltöttünk Jugoszláviában és még *az* utolsó hét is ragyogó volt.

In 1963 they were in Africa, and *the* next year found them in Australia.
1963-ban Afrikában voltak, és *a* következő év Ausztráliában találta őket.

Prediction: HLE have great difficulty in using the zero article with *last* and *next*, because in Hungarian the definite article is used with its Hungarian equivalents, therefore errors like the following should be common:

+ We shall meet *the* next week
+ He finished his studies *the* last year (referring from the present to the future or the past respectively).

Validation: Our error-corpus of HE did not reveal any examples of deviant usage to support our prediction. However, one example did occur with *next* without the article in the sense of an event „following" another event in the past instead of using the definite article. Its explanation probably is that in Hungarian an adverbial *másnap* is more frequently used than the phrase with the definite article: *a következő nap*.

2.23 *Premodifiers: participles.*

Premodifying participles in both languages behave very much like descriptive adjectives, except that they cannot be compared, but their presence as a modifier does not influence the use of the articles.

Table IX. Participles as premodifiers of noun phrases in English and Hungarian.

There was	a	– little sleeping spoilt	child		in the room.
	Egy	– kis alvó elkényeztetett	gyermek	volt	a szobában.
	A/An	– old handwritten printed	document	was lying	on the table.
	Egy	– régi kézírásos nyomtatott	okmány	feküdt	az asztalon.

2.24 *Premodifiers: nouns.*

Whether or not a noun, adjunctive or adjectivized, accompanies another noun as a premodifier, it does not influence or change the use of the articles in either language.

The flower garden full of beautiful ϕ garden flowers was surrounded by *a* stone wall.

ϕ Kőfal vette körül *a* virágos kertet, amely tele volt ϕ gyönyörű kerti virágokkal.

2.25 *English genitive and* of *-phrase constructions and Hungarian equivalents.*

In this part of the study the different uses of the possessive relational phrase (1.422) functioning as subject in English and Hungarian are classified and examined concerning article usage.

In English in the case of the inflected genitive *'s* /s, z, ɪz/ a determiner must precede the grammatical possessor (except when it is a proper noun) whether it refers to both members of the structure or only to the first element of the possessive phrase.

As was indicated in 1.422, semantically as well as formally, structures with classifying genitive are more closely connected than those with specifying genitive. As a result of this close relation both in English and Hungarian, any other premodifier – i.e., determiner, or attribute, preceding the classifying genitive – refers to the structure as a whole, not to the genitive (grammatical possessor) itself:

A shrill child's voice broke the silence of the afternoon.
Egy éles gyermekhang törte meg a délután csendjét.

A Hungarian doctor's degree is the result of several years of hard work.
Egy magyar orvosi diploma sok év kemény munkájának az eredménye.

On the other hand, when a modifier precedes a specifying genitive in both English and Hungarian, it refers only to the word in the genitive (grammatical possessor):

The little child's health was fragile.
A kis gyermek egészsége gyenge volt.

That bad child's new clothes are already dirty.
Annak a rossz gyereknek az új ruhája már piszkos.

The overt identification of the grammatical possessor indicates a certain definiteness. In the specifying genitive phrase definiteness is not overtly marked with the definite article in English. However, transformation of the inflectional structure into the prepositional phrase reveals its presence:

the girl's dress → *the* dress of *the* girl
a girl's dress → *the* dress of *a* girl
that girl's dress → *the* dress of *that* girl
these children's toys → *the* toys of *these* children

If any other relationship in addition to possession is to be expressed, the prepositional phrase must be used in English. In the case of the prepositional phrase – which is used more frequently than the inflectional structure – both elements of the phrase can be modified separately and must be marked by a determiner:

The picture of *his* grandfather taken in New York hangs on the wall.
(A nagyapja képe, amelyik New Yorkban készült, a falon lóg.)

That book of ϕ Hemingway which I've just read was very exciting.
(ϕ Hemingwaynek az a könyve, amelyet ép most olvastam, nagyon izgalmas volt.)

A dear friend of *my* mother's came to see us last night.
(Tegnap este ϕ édesanyám egy kedves barátnője látogatott meg bennünket.)

In Hungarian the possessive relational phrase is nearly always preceded by a determiner except when the grammatical possessor is expressed by a proper noun, or a countable noun – either singular or plural – used in a generic sense (not individualized). However, in present-day colloquial speech even a proper name can sometimes co-occur with an article. The determiner in most cases refers to the grammatical possessor:

A lány ruhája szép.
(The girl's dress is beautiful.)

(*A*) János kalapja az asztalon van.
(ϕ John's hat is on the table.)

A férfiak poharai üresek.
(The men's glasses are empty.)

Egy lány ruhája mindig legyen rendes.
(A girl's dress should always be tidy.)

The suffixes marking the grammatical possession in Hungarian express not only the possessor-possession relation but also definiteness.

In cases where the dative suffix *-/nak-nek* co-occurs with the grammatical possessor, the use of the article is compulsory with the grammatical possession. (Its omission is very rare, although it occurs.)

A szék*nek a* lába tört.
(The leg of the chair is broken.)

A kutyá*nak* a szeme barna.
(The dog's eyes are brown.)

Where in Hungarian the grammatical possessor is accompanied by a demonstrative, the dative suffix always occurs with the grammatical possessor:

Annak a lány*nak a* ruhája új.
(That girl's dress is new.)

Annak a lány*nak az* egyik ruhája új.
(One of the dresses of that girl is new.)

Prediction: Since in Hungarian the possessive suffix attached to the grammatical possession indicates its correlation with the grammatical possessor, as well as its definiteness, it is possible that HLE will omit the definite article when the possessive relationship is expressed by the prepositional *of*-phrase in English and create sentences like:

* _ Dress of the girl is hanging on the side of the wardrobe.

or: * The dress of _ girl is hanging on the side of the wardrobe.

on the basis of the Hungarian sentence: *A lány ϕ ruhája a szekrény oldalán lóg* where the construction contains only one article.

Since in English, in the case of the inflectional genitive – which formally is nearer to the grammatical possessive phrase in Hungarian – the grammatical possession can never be preceded by a determiner, there is a possibility that ELH will omit the definite article co-occurring with the grammatical possessor accompanied by the dative suffix and produce such sentences as:

* Annak a lánynak _ ruhája új.
* A széknek _ lába törött.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained nine examples of deviant usage of the possessive relational phrase where the article was omitted before the grammatical possession, and eighteen examples where the article was missing before the grammatical possessor.

2.26 *Postmodifiers: attributive (relative) clauses.*

2.261 *Uncountable nouns.*

Restrictive clauses. When uncountable nouns, whether they denote material objects or abstract notions, are modified by a restrictive relative clause, they occur with the definite article in both English and Hungarian:

$Art_{\Sigma,ii} \rightarrow def$ / _ M [+Restr] + N [-Count, +Act, ±Concr]

The tea that my mother made was very strong.
A tea, amit édesanyám készített, nagyon erős volt.

The love he felt for the girl troubled him greatly.
A szerelem, amelyet a lány iránt érzett, nagyon felkavarta.

Non-restrictive clauses. When an uncountable noun is modified by a non-restrictive relative clause, there is no change in the use of the articles, since nouns denoting material objects are preceded by the zero article in both English and Hungarian; while nouns denoting an abstract notion occur with the zero article in English and with the definite article in Hungarian:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ M [-Restr] + N [-Count, +Concr]

ϕ Veal, which is sometimes hard to find, is available in this restaurant.
ϕ Borjúhús, amelyet nehéz néha beszerezni, kapható ebben a vendéglőben.
(ϕ Borjúhús, amely néha nehezen szerezhető be, kapható ebben a vendéglőben.)

$Art_E \rightarrow \phi$
/ _ M [-Restr] + N [-Count, -Concr]
$Art_H \rightarrow$ def

ϕ Mathematics, which I liked very much, was a compulsory subject in secondary schools.
A matematika, amit (én) nagyon szerettem, kötelező tantárgy volt a középiskolában.

Uncountable nouns expressing genericness can be modified both by restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses, though the use of the articles does not change from that of the unmodified structures; in English the zero article is used, while in Hungarian the definite article:

$Art_E \rightarrow \phi$
/ _ M [±Restr] + N [-Count, ±Concr, -Specified]
$Art_H \rightarrow$ def

Modifier: Restrictive relative clause:

ϕ Tea that comes from India has a special flavor.
(*A* tea, amely Indiából jön, kellemes zamatú.)
Az indiai tea kellemes zamatú.

Modifier: Non-restrictive relative clause:

ϕ Love, which is a wonderful feeling, comes to everyone at some time in his life.
(A szerelem, amely ragyogó érzése mindenkit egyszer elér az életben.)
A szerelem ragyogó érzés, mindenkit egyszer elér az életben.

Modifier: Non-restrictive relative clause:

ϕ Swimming, which is good exercise, is also fun.

Az úszás, amellett, hogy jó testedzés, szórakozás is.

2.262 *Singular countable nouns.*

Restrictive relative clauses. (A) When a singular countable noun preceded by an indefinite article is modified by a restrictive relative clause, the structure may denote „restricted genericness". In such cases in both English and Hungarian the indefinite article is used, and can be substituted for by *any – bármely*. However, in Hungarian the attributive deictic *olyan* is often used instead of the indefinite article *egy*:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ indef

$Art_H \rightarrow$ indef

/ _ M [+Restr] +N [+Count, -Plural, -Specific]

or: $Det_H \rightarrow Dem \rightarrow$ *olyan*

A businessman who worries a lot often develops ulcers.
Egy üzletember, aki sokat idegeskedik, gyakran kap gyomorfekélyt.

A child who has eaten and merely wants to put off going to bed says: „I'm hungry."
Egy gyerek, aki vacsorázott s csak a lefekvést akarja elhalasztani, azt mondja: Éhes vagyok. (LB: 154/290)

A bound form which is part of a word is a formative.
Olyan kötött forma, amely a szó egy része, formatívum. (LB: 196/292)

Prediction: (1) Since in both English and Hungarian the definite article is used in a restricted generic sense, both HLE and ELH will form correct sentences.

(2) However, when the deictic *olyan* is used in Hungarian, the possibility of errors can be predicted. HLE may use *such a* instead of the indefinite article and produce sentences like:

+*Such a* bound form which is part of a word is a formative.

ELH, on the other hand, will not use the deictic *olyan* but only the indefinite article and form such sentences as:

+*Egy* ruhát akarok, amelyet tegnap láttunk a kirakatban.

instead of: *Olyan* ruhát akarok, amilyet tegnap láttunk...
(I want a dress like we saw yesterday in the shop-window.)

Validation: Our error-corpus of HE contained three examples supporting our prediction 2.

(B) When a singular countable noun occurring with the indefinite article denotes one item or individual, but does not indicate which one, it can be modified by a restrictive relative clause:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ indef / _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, +Indiv, -Act]

A book that I have been looking for is now available in the bookshop.
Egy könyv, amelyet már régen keresek, most kapható a könyvesboltban.

A dog that he often saw walking in the streets appeared today with three little puppies.
Egy kutya, amelyet gyakran látott az utcán sétálva, ma három kis kutyakölyökkel jelent meg.

Prediction: Since in both languages the definite article is used with the noun modified by a restrictive relative clause, both HLE and ELH will produce correct sentences.

Validaton: Our error-corpus of HE revealed no examples of deviant usage, which supports the validity of our predicton.

(C) In both English and Hungarian when there is only one particular item the speaker wants to denote, the definite article is used with the noun modified by a restrictive relative clause as the overt mark of definiteness. However, in Hungarian the demonstrative *az* very often occurs as a deictic, preceding the nominal phrase in the main clause, when there is emphasis:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ def
$Art_H \rightarrow$ def / _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, +Act, +Y]
or: $Det_H \rightarrow$ Dem + Art [+Def]

The house that I want to buy is not far from the shore of the lake.
A ház/*Az a* ház, amelyet meg akarok venni, nincs messze a tóparttól.

The letter that he received yesterday contained good news.
A levél/*Az a* levél, amelyet tegnap kapott, jó híreket tartalmazott.

But where is *the* man who is strong enough to take this nation's faith into his hands?
De hol van *az az* ember, aki elég erős lehet arra, hogy kézbe vegye ennek a nemzetnek a sorsát?

(Móricz: Rokonok, 144)

Prediction: HLE may often use a demonstrative instead of the definite article and form sentences like:

* *That* letter that he received yesterday contained good news.

ELH, on the other hand, will avoid using the demonstrative and use only the definite article and produce sentences like:

* _ *A* férfi, aki fiatal volt, egész este táncolt.
instead of: *Az a* férfi, aki fiatal volt, ...
(The man who was young danced all night.)

Validation: Our error-corpus of HE contained six examples of deviant usage with nouns both in the singular and plural (2.263).

(D) When the relative clause in Hungarian is introduced by *amely* or *ami* the use of the demonstrative as a deictic in the main clause is optional (see the examples above). However, when identification is important, the use of the deictic demonstrative in the main clause is compulsory and the relative clause is introduced by the relative pronoun accompanied by the suffix *-ik:*

Az a ház, amely*ik*et meg akarok venni, a tóparthoz közelebb áll.
(The particular house that I want to buy is the one nearer to the shore of the lake.)

Non-restrictive relative clauses. (A) A singular countable noun expressing genericness can be modified by a non-restrictive relative clause in both languages. The noun in English can occur either with the definite or with the indefinite article, while in Hungarian the noun occurs with the definite article:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ * def
/ _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, -Specific]
$Art_H \rightarrow$ * def

An/The elephant, which is an animal that never forgets, lives more than a hundred years.
Az elefánt, egy soha nem felejtő állat, több mint száz évig él.

A/The lark, which has very sweet song, builds its nest on the ground.
A pacsirta, amely nagyon szépen énekel, a földre építi a fészkét.
(SA: LES, 230)[1]

1 Examples are taken from Stannard Allen: *Living English Structures* (1954).

(B) In both English and Hungarian a singular countable noun denoting an unidentified item or individual and marked by the indefinite article can be accompanied by a non-restrictive clause. The occurrence of such clauses is infrequent with the antecedent functioning as subject, but often occurs with a predicative or objective antecedent:[1]

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ indef / _ M [-Restr] + N[+Count, -Plural, -Act]

A boy, whom I have never seen before, is standing at the door.
Egy fiú áll az ajtóban, akit ezelőtt soha nem láttam.

A brown table, which is made of mahagony, stood in the left corner of the room.
(Lit.: *Egy* barna asztal, amely mahagóniból készült...)
Egy mahagóniból készült, barna asztal áll a szoba bal sarkában.

A singular countable noun with the definite article in both English and Hungarian can be modified by a non-restrictive relative clause, but the occurrence of the definite article has nothing to do with the relative clause. Its presence depends on other factors in the discourse; e.g., contextual basis, other restrictive modifiers, etc.:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def / _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, +Indiv, +Act, +Y]

I met the old couple yesterday. *The* man, who took off his cap when he saw me, said nothing, but his wife at once began talking.
(OJ: III. – 100)

Tegnap találkoztam az öreg házaspárral. *A* férfi, aki levette a sapkáját amikor meglátott, semmit sem szólt, de *a* felesége azonnal elkezdett beszélni.
(contextual basis [+Anaph])

The day before the journey, which he spent with his family, passed quickly.
Az utazás előtti nap, amelyet a családjával töltött, hamar elrepült.
(restrictive modifier)

(C) In both languages both the definite and the indefinite singular countable nouns occur comparatively rarely with non-restrictive relative clauses. Nouns denoting unique items, on the other hand, generally can be modified only by non-restrictive relative clauses:

1 Some linguists do not share this opinion. Orosz (n.d.: 64) for example, states that „Indefinite noun phrases ... can be followed by restrictive clauses only, and not by non-restrictive ones."

ϕ George, whom you met last week, is seriously ill.
ϕ Gyuri, akivel a múlt héten találkoztál, súlyosan beteg.

The sun, which rose only an hour ago, is already shining strongly enough to warm the air.
A nap, amely alig egy órája kelt fel, már elég erősen süt ahhoz, hogy felmelegítse a levegőt.

ϕ England, which was one of the most powerful countries in the nineteenth century, had colonies all over the world.
ϕ Angliának, amely a XIX. században egyike volt a leghatalmasabb országoknak, az egész világon voltak gyarmatai.

Prediction: Since the non-restrictive relative clause does not influence the use of the article with singular countable nouns in either language, the possible errors are similar to those mentioned in the case of unmodified singular countable nouns in subject position (predictions in 2.12).

Validition: Our error corpus of HE did not reveal any examples of deviant usage.

2.263 *Plural countable nouns.*

Restrictive relative clauses. (A) Restricted genericness, which can be expressed by a singular countable noun preceded by an indefinite article (2.262), can also be expressed by a plural noun preceded by the zero article in both English and Hungarian:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural, -Specific]

ϕ Children who have eaten and merely want to put off going to bed say: „I'm hungry."
ϕ Gyerekek, akik már vacsoráztak és csak a lefekvést akarják elhalasztani azt mondják: „éhes vagyok."

ϕ Businessmen who worry a lot often develop ulcers.
ϕ Üzletemberek, akik sokat idegeskednek, gyakran kapnak gyomorfekélyt.

ϕ Forms which may be utterances are free.
ϕ Formák, amelyek nyilatkozatok lehetnek, szabad formák.

(B) When plural NPs denoting individual members of a class are modified by relative clauses, the features of *totality* and *partiality* must be taken into consideration. When a plural NP not expressing genericness is modified by a restrictive relative clause, it expresses partiality. In English the noun is preceded by the definite article, while in Hungarian both the demonstrative and the definite article occur with the noun:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ def

/ _ M [+ Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural, +Act, -Total]

$Det_H \rightarrow$ Dem +Art [+Def]

The men who were young danced all night.
Azok a férfiak, akik fiatalok voltak, egész éjjel táncoltak.

(Some of the men, only those who were young, not all who were present, danced.)

The letters that I received yesterday contained good news.
Azok a levelek, amelyeket tegnap kaptam, jó híreket tartalmaztak.

The books that they wanted to buy are not available in the shop.
Azok a könyvek, amelyeket meg akartak venni, nem kaphatók a könyvesboltban.

Non-restrictive relative clauses. The NP is defined by other factors than the modifying relative clauses, and it refers to all the individuals or items previously mentioned.

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def / _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural, +Act, +Total]

The men, who were young, danced all night.
A férfiak, akik fiatalok voltak, egész éjjel táncoltak.

2.27 *Postmodifiers: English infinitives and Hungarian equivalents.*

No examples of NPs functioning as subjects and modified by an infinitive were found in the corpora or in the works consulted. Therefore the co-occurrence relationships of the infinitive in English, and its clausal equivalents in Hungarian on the use of the articles in the two languages will be examined where nominal objects are analyzed (3.123).

2.28 *Postmodifiers: English participles and Hungarian equivalents.*

A participial phrase in the two languages can be either restrictive or non-restrictive. In the first case it influences the use of the articles, in the second it does not. In both English and Hungarian the definite article is used with a restrictive participial phrase:

$Art_{E,H}$ → def / _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, ±Plural, +Act]

The child sleeping in the cradle was covered with a pink blanket; *the* child sleeping in the cot with a blue one.
A bölcsőben alvó gyermek rózsaszínű takaróval volt betakarva, míg *a* kiságyban lévő kékkel.

The children sleeping in the big room were ten years old; *the* children sleeping in the little one were only six.
A nagyszobában alvó gyerekek tízévesek, *a* kisszobában alvók pedig csak hatévesek voltak.

When the participial phrase is non-restrictive, it can modify singular nouns occurring either with the definite or indefinite article and also plural nouns occurring with the definite or zero article:

$Art_{E,H}$ → def/indef / _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, +Act]

A child eating an apple ran towards me.
Egy almát evő gyermek szaladt felém.

The young writer, although well-known all over the world, was unknown to the students.
Az egyetemi hallgatók nem ismerték *a* világszerte ismert fiatal írót.

$Art_{E,H}$ → def / ϕ / _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural, +Act]

ϕ Children eating apples were sitting in the shade.
ϕ Almát evő gyermekek üldögéltek az árnyékban.

The young Hungarian pianists, well-known all over the world, planned a big concert tour in Europe.
A világszerte jól ismert fiatal magyar zongoraművészek európai koncert-túrát terveztek.

Chapter III

3.0 *Articles with nominal objects.*[1]

This section of the study examines the use of the articles in English and Hungarian with NPs functioning as object complements. Structural differences in the two languages are pointed out, and after a short survey of the basic types, cases which differ from the article usage in nominal subjects are analyzed in detail.

3.01 *Nominal objects in English and Hungarian.*

There are certain striking differences in the syntax of the two languages that should be noted. Since this study concentrates on the use of the articles, the syntactic differences between object complements in the two languages are touched upon to give a framework for our analysis.

3.011 *Different object constructions.*

In the verbal phrase (VP) in both languages a verb can be followed by a noun or NP as its complement. Cases where the whole verbal phrase [VP → V + N/NP] expresses predication will be dealt with in Chapter IV; in this chapter cases where the NP is an object complementation to the verb are analyzed. Since not all of the different object complements distinguished in English are considered as object complements in Hungarian, both require some investigation. The collocation of an NP and verb in a VP (excluding predication) can result in different combinations:

(1)	I am reading *a book.*	(direct object)
	Olvasok *egy könyvet.*	(object)
(2)	I gave *John* N_1 a book N_2.	(N_1 = indirect object)
	Jánosnak adtam egy könyvet.	(dative case)
	Adtam *Jánosnak* egy könyvet.	

1 This order of presentation was selected since there are more common features between NPs functioning as subjects and objects than between those functioning as subjects and predicates.

(3) I gave a book$_{N_1}$ *to John*$_{N_2}$ (N_2=prepositional indirect object)
Jánosnak adtam egy könyvet. (dative case)
Adtam *Jánosnak* egy könyvet.

(4) I am speaking *about an interesting book.* (prepositional object)
Egy érdekes könyvről beszélek. (adverbial case)

(5) I ask John$_{N_1}$ that question$_{N_2}$ whenever I meet him.
(double object: two direct objects)
Valahányszor találkozunk felteszem *Jánosnak*$_{N_1}$ *ezt a kérdést*$_{N_2}$
(N_1=dative case, N_2=object)

(6) I call *the boy*$_{N_1}$ *John*$_{N_2}$. (complex object: subject-predicate relation in the object complement)
Jánosnak$_{N_1}$ hívom a *fiút*$_{N_2}$. (N_1=dative case, N_2=object)

It can be seen that in English the term *object* is used in a much wider sense than in Hungarian. In Hungarian an object is generally marked by the suffix *-t*, except nouns with possessive suffixes; e.g., *kezem* (my hand), *kabátod*, (your coat), and the personal pronouns *engem* (me), *téged* (you, familiar form) where no suffix marks obligatorily the case. In a Hungarian sentence only that noun or NP which follows this rule is considered to be an object.

In English a noun without a preposition can function with a transitive verb as a *direct object* (DO) complement (examples 1, 2 N_2, 3 N_1, 5 N_1, N_2, 6 N_1 above).

The *indirect object* (IO) in English can be expressed in two ways: (1) it may closely follow the governing verb and precede the DO complement or prepositional object complement, or (2) it can follow the verb plus DO and is preceded by the preposition *to* or, more rarely, by *for.* An IO can never be the only object complement of a verb in English. The English IO is generally expressed by the dative case in Hungarian with the suffix: *-nak/-nek* (examples 2 and 3, above).

The equivalent of an English *prepositional object* (example 4, above) is a kind of adverbial, the so-called *permanent adverbial*[1] in Hungarian where the suffix of the noun is governed by the verb in the Hungarian sentence:

beszélni valakiről/valamiről (to talk about sy/sg)
várni valakire/valamire (to wait for sy/sg)

You had come doubtlessly *to* the same conclusion thatI had.
S kétségtelenül ugyanarra a következtetésre jutottak, mint én.
(AC: 95/97)

1 The term is used in the Hungarian Academy Grammar (MMNYR).

Franklin remembered he had once waited *for* a train for England.
Valahol errefelé vonat*ra* várt egyszer Franklin. (B: 5)

However, there is no clear-cut overlapping between English prepositional objects and Hungarian permanent adverbials. Very often the Hungarian equivalent of an English DO is a permanent adverbial, or an object in Hungarian can even be expressed by an adverb in English (on the surface level):

találkozni valaki*vel* – to meet somebody (DO)
eljutni valaho*vá* – to reach something (DO)
emlékezni valaki*re*/valami*re* – to remember sy/sg (DO)

I meet *my friend* tomorrow. (DO)
Találkozom *a barátommal* holnap. (permanent adverbial)

I thanked my professor *for his help.* (prepositional object)
Megköszöntem a professzoromnak *a segítségét.* (object)

Thousands of people live *in Budapest.*	(adverbial)
Budapest *városát* sok ezren lakják.	(object)
... being still *in its infancy.*	(adverbial)
... *gyermekkorát* éli. (Pei: 118/145)	(object)

They did not blame *the war* much. (DO)
De azért a lakosok nem *a háborúra* panaszkodtak. (permanent adv.) (EK: 7/9)

... and who reached *a certain conclusion.*	(DO)
S eljutottak *bizonyos következtetésre.*	(permanent adv.)
	(AC: 95/98)

A *double object* – two DOs following a verb – can occur in English; in Hungarian only one object (not including enumerations) can occur, the other is a permanent adverbial or a noun/NP in the dative case (example 5, above):

to ask sy sg – kérdezni valaki*től* valami*t*
to envy sy sg – irigyelni valaki*t* valami*ért* or
irigyelni valaki*től* valami*t*.

With *complex objects* in English the second object complement is the complement of the first object; in transformational grammar terms it is an

embedded sentence (example 6, above). In Hungarian the second element of the structure receives suffixation:[1, 2]

I call *him John.* He is John.
Jánosnak nevezem *őt.* Ő János.

They elected *Kennedy president.* Kennedy became president.
Kennedyt elnökké választották. Kennedy elnök lett.

3.012 *Possessive structure with* "to have."

Another characteristic differences in the structure of the two languages is the object-subject relationship, where the possessive structure is concerned. In English with the verb *to have* (habeo) – in the sense of possessing something – the noun expressing the possessor functions as the subject of the sentence, and the noun denoting the possessed is the object following the verb *to have*, with the word-order: S–V–O. In Hungarian the same structure may occur with the verbs *bírni valamit, rendelkezni valamivel;* however, their occurrence in colloquial style is very rare. This relationship is generally expressed differently. The noun denoting the possessed is the subject of the sentence with a possessive suffix; the verb can be the copula *van* (or its variants), and the noun expressing the possessor – if it is indicated overtly – is in the dative case in the surface structure. The word-order is dat–V–S, or S–V / V–S:

John has a book.
S V O

Jánosnak van egy könyve.
Dat V S

but: The book belongs to John.
S V prep.O

A könyv Jánoshoz tartozik.
A könyv Jánosé.
(surface structure)

1 Problems concerning complex objects in English closely resemble those of the nominal predicates (see Chapter IV).

2 The differences in object construction would be expected to cause considerable interference in the use of prepositions in English and adverbial suffixes in Hungarian. Indeed, our error corpus of HE revealed twelve instances of underuse, twelve instances of overuse, and one instance of the misuse of English prepositions with object constructions. However, to set up detailed predictions in both directions and to validate them is beyond the scope of this study.

I have a book.
S V O

Könyvem van.
S V

or: Nekem van egy könyvem.
Dat V S

Egy könyvem van.
S V

At last they had good weather.
Most igazán megvolt a jó idő. (EK: 6/8)
Végre jó idejük volt.

It now had not only a large country membership, but affiliations overseas.
Ma már óriási taglétszáma van országszerte és tengerentúli leányvállalatai. (PB: 8/7)
Ma már nemcsak óriási taglétszáma van országszerte, de tengerentúli leányvállalatai is vannak.

3.013 *Passive structures.*

Another important difference in syntax concerns the passive structures. While in English the passive construction occurs frequently, it is fairly rare in Hungarian where passive voice is generally expressed with the help of different suffixes applied to the verb, by a different verb, or quite frequently with an active sentence where the subject is a general pronoun or by a different topic-comment organization of the sentence:

They have built a new bridge. (active)
Új hídat *építettek.*

A new bridge has been built. (passive)
Új híd *épült.*

The publishing house published a new art book last week. (active)
A kiadó egy új művészeti könyvet *adott ki* a múlt héten.
A kiadó *kiadott* a múlt héten egy új művészeti könyvet.

A new art book was published last week. (passive)
Egy új művészeti könyv *jelent* meg a múlt héten.

The new dictionary can be purchased in this shop. (passive)
The new dictionary is available in this shop.
Az új szótár *kapható* ebben az üzletben.

The house-doors will be locked at eight. (passive)
Este nyolckor *bezárják* a kapukat. (CI: 7/2)

3.1 *The use of the article with object complemen*[1]

We have already identified the Hungarian equivalents of the different English object complements as well as the English passive constructions. In the following analysis the relation of both English and Hungarian articles with uncountable and countable nouns functioning as objects will be described. Emphasis is placed on relations differing from those found between articles and nouns/NPs functioning as subjects. Attention is also given to the Hungarian article as an overt mark of definiteness or indefiniteness with the two conjugation verbal types as well as to the influence of word-order on article selection.

3.11 *Unmodified constructions.*

3.111 *Uncountable nouns.*

An uncountable noun denoting a material object – either unmodified or modified by a non-restrictive modifier – functioning as object expressing genericness or habitual action can occur with the zero article in English. In Hungarian, however, when the noun expresses genericness, it occurs with the definite article with the verb in the definite conjugation; when the noun refers to a habitual action, it occurs with the zero article and precedes the governing verb if it is more stressed than the verb. When the action expressed by the verb is more important than the referent of the object, the noun functioning as object follows the verb (example b, below):

(a) $Art_E \rightarrow \phi$

$$/ _ N\ [-Count, +Concr, -Specific]$$

$Art_H \rightarrow def$

I like ϕ milk.
Szeretem *a* tejet.

Prediction: HLE will probably use the definite article instead of the zero article with uncountable nouns functioning as objects expressing genericness and form sentences like:

1 Henceforth the term object will refer to all constructions considered as object complements in English.

* I like *the* milk.

ELH, on the other hand, will omit the definite article and will probably use the indefinite conjugation with the verb and produce sentences like:

* szeretek _ tejet.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed five examples of deviant usage supporting our prediction.

(b) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ N [-Count, +Concr]

The baby drinks ϕ milk every morning.
A kisbaba minden reggel ϕ tejet iszik.

He buys ϕ bread and ϕ butter for the family every morning.
Minden reggel vesz ϕ kenyeret és ϕ vajat a családnak.
(The transaction is more important than the items purchased)
Minden reggel ϕ kenyeret és ϕ vajat vesz a családnak.
(The items purchased are more important than the transaction)

Prediction: Since in both languages the zero article is used with uncountable nouns functioning as objects referring to habitual action, both HLE and ELH will form correct sentences as regards article usage. However, ELH will probably over-differentiate by using only the word-order known from BL, S–V–O, and avoid using the word-order more frequently used in Hungarian, S–O–V, and form sentences like:

*Minden reggel vesz ϕ kenyeret.
instead of: ϕ kenyeret vesz.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed no examples of deviant usage.

In cases where a material object denoted by a noun functioning as object occurs in a particular situation and it is still regarded as indefinite, the noun occurs with *some* in English, while in Hungarian it either occurs with the zero article or with the quantifying determiner: *egy kis:*

$Art_E \rightarrow$ *some* [-Def]

$Art_H \rightarrow \phi$ / _ N [-Count, +Concr]

or: $Det_H \rightarrow$ *egy kis* [-Def, + Quant]

In the morning they bought *some* cheese and *some* cream at the market.
Reggel vettem *egy kis* sajtot és *egy kis* tejszínt a piacon.
Reggel ϕ sajtot és ϕ tejszínt vettem a piacon.

Give me *some* wine, please.
Kérek *egy kis* bort.

May I get *some* more wine?
Kaphatok még ϕ bort?

Can I offer you *some* tea?
Megkínálhatlak *egy kis* teával?

... I've also boiled *some* potatoes.
... s főztem *egy kis* krumplit is. (AC: 91/94)

While in English *some* and the zero article are free variants with uncountable nouns functioning as subject (2.114), the use of the article *some* with nominal objects seems to be obligatory.

Prediction: HLE will probably omit *some* in the English sentences with uncountable nouns when in Hungarian the same idea is expressed by a noun occurring with the zero article and form such sentences as:

* Give me _ bread, please.

However, when the quantifier *egy kis* is used, HLE will produce correct sentences as regards determiners.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed no examples of deviant usage.

In cases where the uncountable noun denoting a material object is defined by the context or situation, or by a restrictive modifier, the definite article can be used in both languages. In Hungarian, however, in both cases the demonstrative can occur with the noun to indicate emphasis with the verb in the definite conjugation:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def / _ N [-Count, +Concr, +Act]

Pass me *the* salt, please.
Add ide *a* sót, kérlek.

Pass *the* port, damn you.
Add már ide *azt a* portóit, az ördög vinne el. (PB: 8/7)

Prediction: Since in both languages the definite article is used (unless there is special emotional coloring), both HLE and ELH will form correct sentences as regards the articles.

Validation: Our corpus of HE revealed no examples of deviant usage thus supporting our prediction.

The occurrence of the article with uncountable nouns denoting abstract notions generally does not differ in the two languages whether the noun functions as subject or object and when it is used in a generic sense (2.11).

$Art_E \rightarrow \phi$
/ _ N [-Count, -Concr, -Specific]
$Art_H \rightarrow$ def

I like ϕ music.
Szeretem *a* zenét.

Mary likes ϕ rainy weather.
Mari szereti *az* esős időt.

Wilson liked ϕ poetry.
Wilson szerette *a* költészetet. (G: 12/10)

However, when the relation of the object and verbal predicate is very close (i.e., they form a „set-phrase") (examples a, b) or when the latter expresses a long-term action the zero article occurs in both languages, with S–O–V word-order in Hungarian (examples ci, di, ei) if the word-order is S–V–O, the noun occurs with the definite article (examples cii, dii, eii).

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ N [-Count, -Concr]

(a) The colonies declared ϕ war upon the mother country.
A gyarmatok ϕ háborút indítottak az anyaország ellen.

(b) to take ϕ office – ϕ hatalomra kerülni.
to make ϕ money – ϕ pénzt keresni.
to reaffirm ϕ faith – ϕ hitet tenni.
to practice ϕ tolerance – ϕ türelmet gyakorolni.

(c) He wrote of ϕ church music. (SM: 188/142)
i ϕ Ódon egyházi zenéről írt.
ii Írt *az* ódon egyházi zenéről.

(d) People want ϕ peace.
i Az emberek ϕ békét akarnak.
ii Az emberek akarják ϕ békét.

(e) The postulational method saves ϕ discussion.
i A posztulátumokra épűlő módszer ϕ további vitát takarít meg.
ii A posztulátumokra épűlő módszer megtakarítja a vitát. (LB: 154/289)

Prediction: HLE will probably use the definite article instead of the zero article and form sentences like:

+ I like *the* music.

ELH, on the other hand, will omit the definite article and use the zero article with the verb in the indefinite conjugation and produce sentences like:

+Szeretek _ zenét.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained twenty-two instances of unmodified nouns, six instances of nouns modified by descriptive adjectives, four instances of nouns modified by adjunct nouns accompanied by the definite article. However, the corpus also revealed four instances of the indefinite article occurring with nouns in sentences containing *to have* (3.112).

In cases where an uncountable noun refers to an indefinite occurrence of the phenomenon in question, both the zero article and *some* can be used in English, while in Hungarian the zero article can vary with the quantifying determiner *egy kis*. These determiners approach the status of free variants in both languages:

Let's listen to ϕ music.
Hallgassunk ϕ zenét.

Let's listen to *some* music.
Hallgassunk *egy kis* zenét.

Prediction: Since both variants are possible in both English and Hungarian, no errors in regard to determiners are expected.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed no examples of deviant usage thus supporting our prediction.

When the uncountable noun refers to a particular occurrence of the phenomenon, the definite article is used in both languages:

$Art_{E, H}$ → def/ _ N [-Count, -Concr, +Act]

Let's listen to *the* music.
Hallgassuk *a* zenét.

Rather they blamed *the* weather.
Inkább *az* időjárást hibáztatták. (EK: 7/9)

One by one the four sergeants told *the* time.
A négy altiszt egymás után mondta be *az* időt. (B: 6/8)

They were personally proud when they heard *the* far-off cannonading.
Büszkék voltak, valahányszor meghallották *a* távoli ágyúzást. (EK: 6/8)

Prediction: Since in both languages the definite article is used, no errors as regards the articles are expected.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed no examples of deviant usage thus supporting our prediction.

Nouns denoting diseases functioning as objects in English can be accompanied by the zero article, some of them by the definite article. In Hungarian, on the other hand, the zero article occurs when the noun precedes the governing verb, and the definite article when the noun follows the verb:

He got *the* measles.
ϕ Kanyarót kapott.
Megkapta *a* kanyarót.

Susy got ϕ scarlet fever.
Zsuzsi ϕ skarlátot kapott.
Zsuzsi megkapta *a* skarlátot.

It had brought ϕ catarrh.
Neki ϕ hörghurutot hozott. (GD: 15/13)

Bette Davis gets ϕ peritonitis...
Bette Davis ϕ hashártyagyulladást kap... (Al: 11/133)

Prediction: As in the case of prediction 3.111 above, no error can be expected concerning article usage, only in word order.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed no examples of deviant usage.

3.112 *Singular countable nouns.*

It has been stated and shown in previous discussion that while in English with a singular countable noun only the indefinite article and the definite article can occur, in Hungarian the zero article can also be used. This is also true for nouns functioning as objects; however, there are word-order restrictions on the occurrence of the articles in Hungarian, where a singular countable noun with the zero article in object function usually precedes the governing verb (S–O–V), while with the indefinite and definite articles the neutral position for the object noun is after the verb (S–V–O). When it is emphasized, the noun functioning as an object may precede a verb:

(a) $\text{Art}_E \rightarrow$ def/indef
/ _ N [+Count, -Plural]
$\text{Art}_H \rightarrow$ def/indef/ϕ

What are you doing?
I'm writing *a* letter.
I'm writing *the* letter.

Mit csinálsz?
ϕ Levelet írok.
Irok *egy* levelet.

or: *Egy* levelet írok.
(It is a letter I am writing)

Irom *a* levelet.

or: A levelet írom.
(It is the letter I am writing)

(b) In Hungarian when the action expressed by the verb is habitual, the singular countable noun functioning as an object complement may follow the verb and occur with the zero article:

János mindennap olvas ϕ újságot.
John reads ϕ newspapers every day.

A barátom gyakran ír nekem ϕ levelet.
My friend often writes me ϕ letters.

A szomszédaink minden este ϕ televíziót néznek.
A szomszédaink minden este néznek ϕ televíziót.
Our neighbors watch ϕ TV every night.

Prediction: (a) Since the occurrence of the zero article is fairly frequent in Hungarian with NPs functioning as object, HLE will probably use the zero article instead of the indefinite article and form sentences like:

* I have written _ letter.

ELH, on the other hand, will use the indefinite article instead of the zero article and will also avoid applying the S–O–V word-order with which the zero article is generally employed.

(b) HLE will probably use the zero article but with the singular form of the noun instead of the plural form and produce such sentences as:

* John reads ϕ newspaper _ every day.

ELH, on the other hand, will use the noun in the plural form instead of the singular and form sentences like:

* János olvas ϕ újság*okat* minden nap.

Validation: (a) Our error corpus of HE revealed:

(i) Twenty-six instances of the use of the zero article instead of the indefinite article with unmodified singular countable nouns and eight instances with nouns modified by non-restrictive modifiers. In sixteen of these cases the errors as regards articles occurred in sentences containing *to have* where in the Hungarian equivalent the noun occurs with a possessive suffix (3.012).

(ii) Five instances using the indefinite article instead of the zero article or the definite article, which can be traced to the approximative system.

(iii) Four instances of the definite article instead of the zero article with nouns denoting meals.

(b) Our error corpus of HE revealed no examples of deviant usage.

Another case in Hungarian where a singular countable noun functioning as an object complement can be accompanied by the zero article – even with the noun positioned after the verb – is when an idea expressed by another phrase of the sentence is emphasized and the phrase is placed in initial position:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ indef

/ _ N [+Count, +Sing]

$Art_H \rightarrow \phi$

Csapatunk ϕ sikert aratott vízilabdában.
Our team has scored *a* victory in water-polo.

Csapatunk vízilabdában ϕ nagy sikert aratott.
Our team has scored *a* great victory in water-polo.

Csapatunk vízilabdában aratott ϕ nagy sikert.
It is in water-polo that our team has scored *a* great victory.

However, there are certain set-phrases in Hungarian where the object-noun with the zero article always precedes the governing verb:[1]

Megnyugtatta magát, hogy nem kíván senkire ϕ kezet emelni.
He assured himself that he had no desire to lay *a* hand in anger upon anyone in the world. (PB: 7/5)

... és ajkára ϕ mosolyt erőltetett.
... and attempted *a* smile. (PB: 7/6)

... itt órákra is lehetett ϕ szobát bérelni.
... where you can hire *a* room by the hour. (CI: 7/2)

Prediction: HLE will probably use the zero article instead of the indefinite article and form sertences like:

* Our team scored great victory.

3.113 *Plural countable nouns.*

A zero article in English can occur with a plural countable noun functioning as object when the noun is used in the generic sense, and with either the zero article or *some* when the item denoted by the noun is indefinite. However, in Hungarian, genericness is either expressed by a singular countable noun accompanied by the definite article or by a plural noun also occurring with the definite article. Indefiniteness, on the other hand, is expressed by the zero article or by the quantifier *néhány* in Hungarian as an overt equivalent of English *some* (also 2.13).

(a) $Art_E \rightarrow \phi$ / _ N [+Count, +Plural, -Specific]

$Art_H \rightarrow$ def / _ N [+Count, ±Plural, -Specific]

He likes ϕ dogs.
Szereti *a* kutyát.
Szereti *a* kutyákat.

1 A contrastive analysis of the word-order of objective constructions in English and Hungarian has been recently undertaken by L. Dezső in the English-Hungarian Contrastive Linguistic Project. When this work is completed, further investigation of the influence of word-order on article selection will follow.

I don't like ϕ bad books.
... *a* rossz könyveket nem szeretem.
... *a* rossz könyveket ki nem állhatom. (EH: 26/34)

(b) $Art_E \rightarrow \phi/some$ / _ N [+Count, +Plural, -Act]

$Art_H \rightarrow \phi$
/ _ N [+Count, ±Plural, -Act]
$Det_H \rightarrow$ *néhány*

He wrote *some* very good short stories... .
Irt néhány kitűnő novellát. (EH: 26/34)

I've been reading ϕ truly good books all winter... .
ϕ Igazán jó könyveket olvastam egész télen át... . (EH: 26/35)

Steve bought *some*/ϕ books at a sale.
Pista vett *néhány* könyvet a kiárusításon.
Pista *néhány* könyvet vett a kiárusításon.
Pista ϕ könyveket vett a kiárusításon.
Pista vett ϕ könyveket a kiárusításon.

Prediction: (a) HLE will perhaps use the nour expressing genericness either in the singular or plural form with the definite article and form sentences like:

+ I don't like *the* bad books.
+ I don't like *the* bad book_.

ELH, on the other hand, will use the plural nouns with the zero article and produce sentences like:

+ Szeret/Szereti _ kutyákat.

(b) When the quantifier *néhány* is present in Hungarian HLE will use *some* correctly, but where the zero article is used in Hungarian with plural countable nouns, the learners will perhaps omit *some* in the English phrase and produce sentences only with the zero article:

He wrote ϕ very good short stories.

On the other hand, in cases where *some* is used in English, ELH will use the overt Hungarian equivalent, whether it is necessary or not.

Validation: (a) Our error corpus of HE contained eight instances of singular nouns with the zero article and eleven instances of plural nouns with the definite article.

An interesting problem in article usage in English and Hungarian concerns nouns denoting parts of the human body in constructions frequently expressing possessive relations. In English the noun is always in the plural form; in Hungarian the noun occurs in the singular form:

$Det_E \rightarrow$ Det [+Poss] or Art [+Def] or ϕ / _ N [+Count, +Plural]

$Det_H \rightarrow$ Det [+Poss] and/or Art [+Def] or ϕ / _ N [+Count, -Plural]

to shake ϕ hand*s*
ϕ kezet fogni.

Blare shrugged *his* shoulders.
Blare ϕ vállat vont. (AC: 79/82)
Blare megvonta *a* vállát.

... which did not disclosed *his* clenched *teeth*.
... mely azonban nem fedte fel ϕ összeszorított fogát. (PB: 7/6)

The old man sat very upright, *his* eyes fixed on the horizon.
Az öregúr mereven kihúzott derékkal ült, ϕ szemét/tekintetét a látóhatárra szögezve. (AC: 79/81)

Franklin automatically turned *the* hands of his watch.
Franklin gépiesen igazította óráján a mutatót. (B: 7/9)

Prediction: HLE may use the nouns in the singular form and produce sentences like:

+ Blare shrugged his shoulder_.
+ He hit his knee_.

ELH, on the other hand, will use the plural form of the noun, always without the definite article and form such sentences as:

+ A fény zavarta _ szemeit.
(The light bothered his eyes.)

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed no examples of deviant usage. The occurrence of the definite article depends on the same criteria analyzed in 1.231 and 2.43–44.

3.12 *Modified constructions.*

3.121 *Premodifiers and possessive structures.*

The premodifying descriptive adjectives, ordinals, verbals, and nouns – as well as the possessive modifiers – influence article selection in the same way as was indicated in 2.21–25. The occurrence of the zero article in Hungarian is correlated partly with word-order.

Premodifier: Descriptive adjective:

Give me *an* English book, please.
ϕ Angol könyvet adjál, kérlek.
Kérlek, *egy* angol könyvet adjál.
Kérlek, adjál *egy* angol könyvet.

Premodifier: Ordinal number:

They caught sight of *the* second runner.
Megpillantották *a* második futót.
A második futót pillantották meg.

They caught sight of *a* second car.
Megpillantottak *egy* második kocsit.

He won ϕ second prize.
ϕ Második díjat nyert.

In the last case the ordinal number refers to quality rather than to order.

Modifier: Possessive construction:

... for *the* promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples... .
... előmozdítjuk valamennyi nép ϕ gazdasági és szociális előrehaladását... .
(UN: 2/4)

In 1953 he was unable to endure *the* man's pleasant smile and cautious bitting.
1953-ban nem állhatta tovább ϕ klubtársa lekötelező mosolyát és óvatos licitálását. (PB: 1/5)

3.122 *Postmodifiers: attributive (relative) clauses.*

The influence of both restrictive and non-restrictive clauses on article selection of the NP they modify was described in 2.26. However, the occurrence of NP's functioning as objects modified by relative clauses

seems to be more common than those functioning as subjects. Examples of the different cases from our corpora are given below:

I. *Indefinite NPs:*

(1) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ indef / _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, -Act]

I saw *a* girl in the car who was wearing a red hat.
Láttam *egy* lányt az autóban, aki piros kalapot viselt.

(2) $Art_E \rightarrow$ indef
/ _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, -Act]
$Det_H \rightarrow$ Dem $\rightarrow$ *olyan*

Rutherford... did not take into account that *a* nuclear reaction might be discovered that would release more energy... .
Rutherford... elmulasztotta számításba venni, hogy felfedezhetnek *olyan* nukleáris reakciót, amelyben több energia szabadul fel... .
(CL: 22/25)

(3) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural, -Act]

ϕ Chariots may be constructed that will move with incredible rapidity.
ϕ Szekereket lehet készíteni, amelyek hihetetlen gyorsasággal fognak haladni. (Cl: 23/26)

(4) $Art_E \rightarrow \phi$
/ _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, ±Plural, -Act]
$Det_H \rightarrow$ Dem $\rightarrow$ *olyan*

We can construct ϕ systems that explain the world imaginatively.
Felállíthatunk *olyan* rendszereket is, amelyek elképzelésekkel magyarázzák a világot. (HR: 12)

(5) $Art_E \rightarrow \phi$ [+Count, +Plural, -Act]
/ _ M [+Restr] + N
$Art_H \rightarrow \phi$ [+Count, -Plural, -Indiv, -Act]

ϕ Instruments of flying may be formed in which a man ... may beat the air.
ϕ Repülőalkalmatosságot lehet szerkeszteni, amelyben az ember ... legyőzheti a levegőt. (Cl: 23/26)

Prediction: HLE will use *such a* or *such* instead of the indefinite article with singular nouns or the zero article with plural nouns, when in Hungarian the determiner *olyan* occurs.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained four examples of deviant usage which support our prediction.

II. *Definite NPs:*

(1) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def / _ M [+Restr] +N [-Count, +Concr, +Act]

The jewelry which was stolen last week was found yesterday.
Az ékszert, amit a múlt héten elloptak, tegnap megtalálták.

(2) $Art_E \rightarrow$ def

$Art_H \rightarrow$ def / _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, -Act]

or: $Det_H \rightarrow$ Dem +Art [+Def]

He knows *the* man you mentioned.
Ismeri *a* férfit, akit említettél.
Ismeri *azt a* férfit, akit említettél.

(3) $Det_E \rightarrow$ Art [+Def] + *same*
/ _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, +Act]
$Det_H \rightarrow$ *ugyanaz* + Art [+Def]

You had come, doubtless, to *the same* conclusion that I had.
Önök, kétségtelenül *ugyanarra* a következtetésre jutottak, amire én.
(AC: 95/97)

(4) $Art_E \rightarrow$ def
/ _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural, +Act]
$Det_H \rightarrow$ Dem + Art [+Def]

The present writer can claim to have given close and prolonged reflection to *the* facts that constitute the history of the modern movement in the arts of painting and sculpture.

Ennek a könyvnek az írója jogosan mondhatja, hogy tűzetes és hosszas figyelmet fordított *azokra* a tényekre, amelyek a festészetben és a szobrászatban a modern mozgalmak folyamatát előídézték. (HR: 12)

(5) $Det_E \rightarrow$ Dem
/ _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural, +Act]
$Det_H \rightarrow$ Dem +Art [+Def]

Linguistics considers only *those* vocal features which are alike in the two utterances. (LB: 154/290)
A nyelvtudomány csak *azokat a* hangzó elemeket veszi figyelembe, amelyek hasonlóak a két nyilatkozatban.

Prediction: HLE will probably use the demonstrative more frequently than it generally occurs, and perhaps HLE will use the definite article together with the demonstrative and form sentences like:

+ I saw *that the* girl yesterday who visited us last week.

ELH, on the other hand, will omit the use of the definite article occurring together with the demonstrative, and very often with nouns modified by relative clauses ELH will not use the demonstrative at all and produce such sentences as:

+ Add ide *a* könyvet, amelyik az asztalon van.
or: + Add *azt* _ könyvet, amelyik az asztalon van.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained three examples of deviant usage, where the HLE used the demonstrative and the definite article together in English.

3.123 *Postmodifiers: English infinitives and Hungarian equivalents.*

The English infinitive modifying an NP functioning as object is always the result of an embedded sentence; usually it is the abridgement of a relative clause. In Hungarian the equivalent of an English modifying infinitive is generally either a subclause or a premodifier (which is also the result of an embedded sentence). The influence of the infinitive on article selection is similar to that of the relative clause:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ indef

I need *a* magazine to read while I'm waiting.
Szükségem van egy képesújságra, hogy olvassam, amíg várok.

I found *a* suitcase to take on the trip.
Találtam *egy* táskát, amit elvihetek az útra.

She sewed *a* dress to wear at the party.
Varrt *egy* ruhát, hogy viselje az estélyen.

$Art_E \rightarrow$ indef

$Art_H \rightarrow \phi$

He had *a* very hard task to perform.
ϕ Nagyon nehéz feladatot kellett megoldania.

I don't know *a* girl to beat her.
Nem ismerek ϕ lányt, aki legyőzhetne.
Nem ismerek *olyan* lányt, aki legyőzhetné.

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def

or: $Det_H \rightarrow$ Pro [-Def]

The doctor prescribed *the* medicine to take.
A doktor felírta *a* gyógyszert, amelyet szedni kell.

Do you know *the* bus to take?
Tudod, hogy melyik buszra kell szállni?

He will recover if he has *the* will to live.
Meggyógyul, ha van benne élniakarás.
(ha meg van benne az akarat, hogy éljen)

Chapter IV

4.0 *Articles with nominal predicates.*

This chapter will first indicate which parts of speech can function as the nominal part of the predicate (or as predicative or subjective complements) in English and Hungarian, and what their relation is to the use of the articles. The special case of the predicate expressing social rank and position as well as the use of the articles in emphatic sentences (both contrastive and exclamatory) will be analyzed.

A noun – either countable or uncountable – an adjective, or a numeral can function in the nominal phrase or in the verbal phrase of a sentence. The nominative predicate in English and sometimes in Hungarian consists of a non-verbal element and, from a semantic point of view, of an empty copula bearing the features of the verbal category. In such constructions in Hungarian the verbal part can be omitted in an affirmative sentence when the predicate is in the present tense, and in third person, while in English a verbal element is always present:

A fiú _ tanár. (A fiú van tanár.)
The boy is a teacher.

A fiúk _ tanárok. (A fiúk vannak tanárok.)
The boys are teachers.

A könyv _ kék. (A könyv van kék.)
The book is blue.

But:

A fiú tanár *volt.* (past tense)
The boy was a teacher.

A fiú a kertben *van.* (locative)
The boy is in the garden.

When a sentence with a nominal predicate designates state with the help of certain linking verbs, change of the state can be designated without any change in the use of the article:

The boy *is* a soldier.
A fiú (van) ϕ katona.

The boys *are* ϕ soldiers.
A fiúk (vannak) ϕ katonák.

The boy *became* a soldier.
A fiú ϕ katona *lett.*
A fiú ϕ katonává *lett.*

The boy *will become* a soldier.
A fiú ϕ katona *lesz.*[1]

4.1 *Unmodified constructions.*

4.11 *Uncountable nouns.*

An uncountable noun is used with the zero article in predicative position in both languages:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ N [-Count, ±Concr]

Time is ϕ money.
Az idő ϕ pénz.

Water becomes ϕ steam at a high temperature.
A víz magas hőmérsékleten ϕ gőzzé változik.

The whole of astronomy was ϕ astrophysics.
A csillagászat majdnem egészében ϕ asztrofizika lett. (Cl: 27/29)

Prediction: Since in both languages the zero article is used with uncountable nouns in predicate position, both HLE and ELH will form correct sentences.

1 *Prediction:* It is therefore anticipated that HLE will omit the verbal element of the predicate and form sentences like:
- The boy _ a teacher.
- The boys _ teachers.
- The book _ blue.

ELH, on the other hand, will use the copula in cases when it is not necessary, and produce sentences like:
- A fiú *van* tanár.
- A fiúk *vannak* tanárok.
- A könyv *van* kék.

In a higher approximative system, ELH may be expected to over-generalize the rule and omit the copula in sentences with locative, and form such sentences as:
- A fiú ott _.
- A könyv az asztalon _.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained five examples of deviant usage contradicting our prediction. A possible explanation is that uncountable nouns denoting abstract notion occur with the definite article in subject position in Hungarian therefore the use of the definite article could have been transferred to predicative position as well.

4.12 *Singular countable nouns.*

When a singular countable noun in predicate position denotes the class to which the subject noun belongs, it is generally preceded by the indefinite article in English, but in Hungarian it is used with the zero article and precedes the verbal predicate if there is one:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ indef

/ _ N [+Count, -Plural]

$Art_H \rightarrow \phi$

You're *a* man and *a* soldier.
Te ϕ katona vagy és ϕ férfi. (JA: 11/125)

I am *a* camera.
ϕ Fényképezőgép vagyok. (CI: 1/4)

Prediction: HLE will probably omit the indefinite article and produce such sentences as:

+ You are _ man.
+ John is _ teacher.

ELH, on the other hand, will use the indefinite article instead of the zero article in such cases and form sentences like:

+ Te *egy* férfi vagy.
+ János *van egy* tanár.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained thirty examples of deviant usage supporting our prediction.

4.13 *Plural countable nouns.*

A plural countable noun in predicative position takes the zero article in both languages:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ N [+Count, +Plural]

John and Peter are ϕ boys.
János és Péter ϕ fiúk.

Prediction: Since in both languages the zero article is used with plural countable nouns in predicate function, both ELH and HLE will form correct sentences.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed no example of deviant usage which supports our prediction.

4.2 *Modified constructions.*

When a countable or uncountable noun is modified by a non-restrictive attribute or clause, there is no change in the use of the articles in either English or Hungarian, compared with their use with unmodified nouns. We will first consider nouns with non-restrictive modifiers, then with restrictive modifiers.

4.21 *Non-restrictive modifiers.*

4.211 *Uncountable nouns.*

In the case of uncountable nouns functioning as predicates and modified by non-restrictive modifiers, the zero article is used in both languages:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ M [-Restr] + N [-Count, ±Concr]

It is ϕ inflated trash... .
ϕ Felfújt szemét. (EH: 26/34)

This is ϕ good wine.
Ez ϕ jó bor.

This is ϕ wine from the Balaton area.
Ez ϕ balatonvidéki bor.

Prediction: Since the non-restrictive modifiers do not influence article usage, the same is valid for this case as for that of unmodified uncountable nouns in predicate position; i.e., in both languages the zero article is used, and both HLE and ELH will form correct sentences.

Validation: Our error-corpus of HE revealed nine examples of deviant usage contradicting our prediction: five examples when the indefinite article and four when the definite article were used with uncountable nouns modified by non-restrictive modifiers.

4.212 *Singular countable nouns.*

In the case of singular countable nouns the indefinite article is used in English, and the zero article in Hungarian when the noun is modified by a non-restrictive modifier:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ indef

/ _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural]

$Art_H \rightarrow \phi$

It was *a* pleasant café.
ϕ Kellemes kávéház volt. (EH: 3/7)

Huxley is *a* dead man.
Huxley ϕ halott ember. (EH: 26/34)

The hearer is *an* indispensable partner.
A hallgató ϕ nélkülözhetetlen partner. (Pei: 90)

His mother is *a* teacher, who lectures at the university.
Az édesanyja ϕ tanár, aki az egyetemen ad elő.

4.213 *Plural countable nouns.*

A plural countable noun functioning as predicate and modified by a non-restrictive modifier co-occurs with the zero article in both languages:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \phi$ / _ M [-Restr] + N [+Count, +Plural]

Bears are ϕ wild animals.
A medvék ϕ vadállatok.

My neighbors are ϕ passionate jazz-fans.
A szomszédaim ϕ lelkes dzsesszrajongók.

Prediction: Similar errors can be predicted as with singular and plural countable nouns without modification.

(a) HLE will probably omit the indefinite article with singular countable nouns and produce such sentences as:

* Huxley is _ dead man.

ELH, on the other hand, will use the indefinite article instead of the zero article in such cases and form sentences like:

* Huxley *egy* halott ember.

(b) Since in both languages the zero article is used with plural countable nouns in predicate function with non-restrictive modifiers, both HLE and ELH will form correct sentences.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained twenty- five examples of deviant usage thus supporting prediction a; and revealed no example of deviant usage supporting prediction b.

4.22 *Restrictive modifiers.*

In cases when the definite article is used (except with sentences containing contrastive stress, 4.41), its appearance is unrelated to the function of the noun as a predicate of the sentence. Its use is based on other factors; i.e., on linguistic or extralinguistic context, or on restrictive modification expressed by overt grammatical elements.

(a) Anaphoric use of the article, referring back to an antecedent:

$Art_{E,H}$ → def / _ N [+Count, -Plural, +Anaph]

... that's *the* trouble.
... ez *a* baj. (JA: 9/10)

(b) The situtation is given (the heat can be felt):

$Art_{E,H}$ → def / _ N [-Count, -Anaph]

„It may be *the* heat..." said Armitage.
„Talán *a* hőség..." mondta Armitage. (PB: 12/15)

(c) In a given place, at a certain camp known from the discourse:

$Art_{E,H}$ → def / _ N [+Count, -Plural, -Anaph]

... he was *the* cook.
... és az volt *a* szakács. (JA: 9/10)

(d) Possessive relation expressed by overt grammatical means:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ def

/ _ M [+Restr, +Poss] + N [+Count, -Plural]

$Art_H \rightarrow$ def + Det [+Poss]

This is *the* flat of my friend.
Ez a barátomnak *a* lakása.

(e) Adjective in superlative:

$Art_{E, H} \rightarrow$ def / _ M [+Restr, +Superl] + N [+Count, -Plural, +Y]

He is *the* best student in the class.
Ő *a* legjobb tanuló az osztályban.

(f) Restrictive relative clause:

$Art_E \rightarrow$ def

/ _ M [+Restr] + N [+Count, -Plural, +Y]

$Det_H \rightarrow$ Dem + Art [+Def]

Peter is *the* soldier who saved the little girl's life.
Péter *az a* katona, aki megmentette a kislány életét.

As can be seen, in English the definite article is used in every case, while in Hungarian it is used only in examples a–c; where there is a restrictive modifier in the sentence, other determiners co-occur – either a possessive suffix or a demonstrative.

4.3 *Nouns denoting rank and position.*

Jespersen (1949 VII: 451) points out that in English a noun in predicative position denoting the holder of an office, a profession, or rank co-occurs with the definite article if the office, position, or rank can be held by more than one person. In Hungarian the zero article is used in all of these cases. On the other hand, when a rank or official post can be held only by one person at a time, English uses the zero article. In Hungarian a possessive suffix accompanies the noun in question:

John became *a* teacher.
János ϕ tanár lett.
(as a profession)

John became *a* teacher in a secondary school.
János ϕ középiskolai tanár lett.
(one of the teachers in a secondary school)

After some years John became *a* headmaster.
Néhány év múlva János ϕ igazgató lett.
(a rank which may be occupied by several persons in different schools at the same time)

John became *the* headmaster of a grammar school.
János egy gimnázium ϕ igazgató*ja* lett.
(one of the headmasters of grammar schools)

John became ϕ headmaster of the grammar school.
János a gimnázium ϕ igazgató*ja* lett.
(only one person can hold this rank in a given school, at a given time)

As can be seen, some kind of modification is necessary to express the special meaning illustrated above. Modification can be furnished by the situational context, or by a grammatical structure; e.g., a modifier accompanying the noun denoting the holder of an office, rank, or profession:

What was Kennedy? — Kennedy was *a* president.
Ki volt Kennedy? — Kennedy ϕ elnök volt.
(one of the many presidents of different countries, during history)

However, when an American is asked who Kennedy was, the answer might well be:

Kennedy was ϕ President.
Kennedy ϕ Elnök volt.
(the situation for him is given in American history or politics)

J. F. Kennedy was ϕ President of the United States.
Kennedy az Egyesült Államok ϕ elnöke volt.
(the predicative noun is modified by a restrictive modifier)

The restrictive modifier can be a grammatical possessor expressed by a postmodifying *of*-phrase in English, or by a premodifying attributive with possessive suffixes in Hungarian.

Prediction:

(a) HLE will probably use the zero article instead of the indefinite or definite article and form sentences like:

+ John became _ teacher.
+ John became _ teacher of a secondary school.

(b) But in cases where HLE have acquired the rule that a grammatical possession co-occurs with the definite article when the grammatical possessor is expressed by the prepositional phrase, they will use the definite article

instead of the zero article in this special case expressing rank, and will produce sentences like:

+ J. F. Kennedy was *the* President of the United States.
(not an overt error, but underdifferentiation)

(c) ELH, on the other hand, will use the indefinite article instead of the zero article and form sentences like:

+ János *egy* tanár lett.
+ János *egy* gimnáziumi igazgató lett.

Validation: Our error corpus contained two examples of deviant usage supporting prediction a, but did not reveal any example validating prediction b.

The above-mentioned rule applies only to nouns denoting persons functioning as subjects with predicative nouns denoting rank or profession. If the subject noun (the noun in the nominal phrase) is a place name, the predicate noun takes the definite article in English; in Hungarian the zero article is used with a noun inflected by a possessive suffix:

Budapest is *a* capital.
Budapest ϕ főváros.
(one of the many capitals of the world)

Budapest is *the* capital of Hungary.
Budapest Magyarország ϕ fővárosa.
(there is only one capital in a country)

Budapest is *a* town in Central Europe.
Budapest *egy* város Közép-Európában.
Budapest *egy* középeurópai város.
(one of the many towns in Europe)

Budapest is *the* most beautiful town on the banks of the Danube.
Budapest *a* legszebb város, amelyik a Duna partján fekszik.
Budapest *a* legszebb dunaparti város.
(only one item can be the most beautiful, the noun is modified by an adjective in the superlative)

Prediction: Since a noun occurring with the possessive suffix is often preceded by the zero article in Hungarian, HLE will probably omit the definite article and form such sentences as:

+ Budapest is _ capital of Hungary.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained two examples of deviant usage supporting our prediction.

4.4 *Emphatic sentences.*

4.41 *Contrastive emphasis.*

In sentences expressing contrastive emphasis, when a noun functioning as predicate identifies one item out of two or more, it occurs with the definite article in both languages:

$Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def / _ N [+Count, -Plural, +Y]

The boy is *the* teacher.
A fiú *a* tanár.
(not the girl)

Other nominals such as adjectives and numerals can function as a predicate in the same way, although the adjective in English must be accompanied by the indefinite pronoun *one* in sentences with contrastive emphasis:

The boy is *the* good *one*.
A fiú *a* jó.
(not the girl)

The boy is *the* first.
A fiú *az* első.
(not the man)

In Hungarian a different word-order is also possible with these structures without changing the articles:

A tanár a fiú.
A jó a fiú.
Az első a fiú.

Prediction: Since in both languages the definite article is used, both HLE and ELH will form correct sentences from the point of view of the articles. But since in Hungarian the predicative adjective can co-occur with the definite article without the addition of another element, HLE will omit the indefinite pronoun *one* and produce sentences like:

+ The boy is the good _.

Validation: Our error corpus of HE did not reveal any example of deviant usage.

4.42 *Exclamations.*

4.421 *Uncountable nouns.*

An uncountable noun functioning as predicate as a constituent of an exclamatory sentence co-occurs in English with the indefinite pronoun accompanied by the indefinite article. In Hungarian, only the indefinite pronoun occurs; the indefinite article cannot be used:

$Det_E \rightarrow$ Pro [-Def] + Art [-Def]
/ _ N [-Count]

$Det_H \rightarrow$ Pro [-Def]

What a pity!
Milyen ϕ kár!
Micsoda ϕ kár!

What a shame!
Micsoda szégyen!

What a delight!
Micsoda öröm!

What a pleasure to see you again!
Micsoda öröm, hogy újra látlak!

What a surprise that you have come!
Micsoda meglepetés, hogy eljöttél!

Prediction: HLE will probably omit the indefinite article and form such sentences as:

+ What _ pity!
+ What _ delight!

ELH, on the other hand, will use the indefinite article with uncountable nouns and produce sentences like:

+ Milyen *egy* kár!
+ Micsoda *egy* öröm!

Validation: Our error corpus of HE contained three examples of deviant usage which support our prediction.

4.422 *Countable nouns.*

In cases where the countable noun is a constituent of an emphatic exclamatory sentence, an indefinite article accompanies the indefinite pronoun in English; in Hungarian the use of the indefinite article with the indefinite pronoun is optional:

$Det_E \rightarrow$ Pro [-Def] + Art [-Def]
N [+Count, -Plural]

$Det_H \rightarrow$ Pro [-Def] + / Art [-Def]/

What a dump! (A: 8/10)
Micsoda (egy) lebuj.

What a naughty boy you are today!
Micsoda (egy) rossz fiú vagy ma!

Prediction: HLE will tend to use only the indefinite pronoun with singular countable nouns in exclamatory sentences because, though the use of the indefinite article is optional in Hungarian, the variation without it is preferable and more common; therefore such learners will produce sentences like:

+ What _ naughty boy you are today.

ELH, on the other hand, will always use the indefinite article together with the indefinite pronoun, and will avoid the other – probably more common – use of the indefinite pronoun occurring alone. (In such cases we speak of overdifferentiation.)

Validation: Our error corpus of HE revealed no example of deviant usage to support our prediction.

SUMMARY

The study aims at giving a two-way contrastive analysis of the use of the article in English and Hungarian. By revealing the rules governing determination in the two languages and by developing its own methodology for analysis, the study aims at adding to theoretical contrastive linguistics. By calling attention to the difficulties in language acquisition in order to reduce base language interference (negative transfer) in acquiring the target language, the study attempts to add to applied contrastive linguistics. The results of the study can be directly used in course development, text-book writing, and in the preparation of curricula for both Hungarian learners of English and English learners of Hungarian.

In the theoretical framework given in Part One the study tries to show all the means for expressing determination in English and Hungarian noun phrases. However, these elements are analyzed and contrasted only from the point of view of article usage in both languages. Attention is called to the main differences in English and Hungarian concerning the relation of demonstratives and possessive determiners to articles. The environments of articles are also dealt with in Chapter I. In the classification of nouns the elaborate system of English countable and uncountable nouns is contrasted with its counterparts in Hungarian. The important distinction between the English quantifiers *much* and *little* and numericals *many* and *few* is analyzed, since this distinction does not exist in Hungarian. On the other hand, special attention is given to the opposition *individual* and *non-individual* features characteristic of Hungarian countable common nouns.

Part Two gives the actual contrastive analysis of the English and Hungarian articles, showing the rules governing article usage with examples for illustration. The rules are followed by predictions of expected errors for both HLE and ELH. In the case of HLE the predictions are validated by actual classroom data. Since use of the article is influenced by the function of the NP in the sentence, NPs functioning as subject, object, and predicate are analyzed.

In Chapter II, after having given the general rules, cases causing difficulties in language acquisition are presented. The special English locative sentences with *there is/are* as well as the two uses of the word *most* are

analyzed, since their Hungarian equivalents differ greatly. The use of the English *some* /sm/ as an article with uncountable and plural countable nouns is described, calling attention to the fact that often in Hungarian the zero article is used in these cases instead of any overt equivalent. The use of the zero article with non-individualized countable nouns in Hungarian is also dealt with, since this phenomenon is unknown in English.

In Chapter III, where articles are analyzed with nominal objects, the difference in English and Hungarian object constructions is clarified, including passive structures. (The term object covers a greater range of surface structures in English than in Hungarian, and the passive is rarely used in Hungarian.) The important role of word-order on article usage in Hungarian – whether the nominal object precedes or follows the governing verb – is examined, as well as the relation of article usage to definite and indefinite conjugation.

The use of the article with nominal predicates is analyzed in Chapter IV: the overt use of the English copula in opposition to its non-use in Hungarian in the present tense, the difference between the use of the indefinite article in English and the zero article in Hungarian with predicative nouns, and the special use of the zero article with English nominal predicates expressing rank and profession.

The study has mainly analyzed the regular characteristic rules governing article usage, together with minor but important characteristics of both languages. More detailed analysis is still needed in many respects. To make the research complete, the same type of contrastive analysis should be accomplished with adverbial phrases, where numerous differences and partial similarities in English and Hungarian occur. The role of articles in expressing genericness also needs further investigation. More detailed research is needed concerning the use of the English *some* in its article function as well as the problem of countability in the case of Hungarian nouns. Finally, the predictions regarding the possible errors of ELH should also be validated at a later stage of research. The contrastive analysis of determination can only be accomplished by a thorough examination of all determiners modifying noun phrases in the English and Hungarian languages.

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